



Dems make opening offer, with no money for Trump's wall

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats in the House offered a border security plan on Wednesday that would not provide a penny for Donald Trump's border wall, ignoring — for now — an early-morning warning from the president that they'd be "wasting their time" if they don't come up with wall money.

The Democratic offer is just a starting point in House-Senate talks on border security funding that kicked

off in a basement room in the Capitol. A top Democrat acknowledged that "everything is on the table," including the border barriers demanded by Trump. Lawmakers on both sides flashed signs of flexibility, eager to demonstrate willingness to compromise in hopes of resolving the standoff with Trump that sparked the just-ended 35-day partial government shutdown.

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From left, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, R-Tenn., Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., rear, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, greet each other as the bipartisan group of House and Senate bargainers finished their first meeting to craft a border security compromise in hope of avoiding another government shutdown, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019.

Associated Press



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Foxconn factory jobs touted by Trump will not come to pass

By SCOTT BAUER

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Electronics giant Foxconn reversed course and announced Wednesday that the huge Wisconsin plant that was supposed to bring a bounty of blue-collar factory jobs back to the Midwest — and was lured with billions in tax incentives — will instead be primarily a research and development center staffed by scientists and engineers. The move was decried in some quarters as a case of bait-and-switch by the Taiwan-based company, which originally planned to build high-tech liquid crystal display screens in a project President Donald Trump had proudly pointed to as a sign of a resurgence in American manufacturing.

In a statement, Foxconn said it remains committed to Wisconsin and the creation of 13,000 jobs as promised. But because the global market environment that existed when the \$10 billion project was announced in 2017 has shifted, "this has necessitated the adjustment of plans for all projects."

"This news is devastating for the taxpayers of Wisconsin," said Wisconsin Assembly Minority Leader Gordon Hintz, a Democrat. "We were promised manufacturing jobs. We were promised state-of-the-art LCD production. ... And now, it appears Foxconn is living up to their failed track record in the U.S. — leaving another state and community high and dry."

Economic development



In this June 28, 2018, file photo, President Donald Trump, center, along with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, left, and Foxconn Chairman Terry Gou participate in a groundbreaking event for the new Foxconn facility in Mt. Pleasant, Wis.

officials and other supporters of the project urged patience, saying Foxconn still plans to invest what it promised. The White House had no immediate comment.

Foxconn, a major supplier to Apple, is the world's largest contract maker of electronics.

Louis Woo, special assistant to Foxconn's CEO, was quoted as telling Reuters that it is scaling back and possibly shelving plans to build display screens in Wisconsin because "we can't compete."

Woo said that instead of a factory, Foxconn wants to create a "technology hub," with about three-quarters of the jobs in research and development and design. Those jobs typically go to college graduates. The plant is under construction

and scheduled to open in 2020.

Marc Levine, senior fellow and founding director of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Center of Economic Development, called it "one enormous bait-and-switch." And he scoffed at the idea that Foxconn, known for manufacturing, could transform into a research and development giant.

"That's simply not what Foxconn is," Levine said in an email. "So the notion that there will be 13,000 research jobs at Foxconn is highly, highly unlikely."

The company initially billed the massive 20 million-square-foot (1.86 million-square-meter) Wisconsin complex as its first North American manufacturing site for the next generation of display panels to be

used in a wide variety of products, including large-screen TVs, self-driving cars, notebooks and other monitors.

Wisconsin state and local governments promised roughly \$4 billion to Foxconn, the richest incentive package in state history and the biggest pledged by a state to a foreign corporation in U.S. history. Foxconn was required to invest \$10 billion and create 13,000 jobs to get the full incentives.

It had already fallen short last year, hiring 178 full-time employees rather than the 260 targeted, and failed to earn a state tax credit worth up to \$9.5 million.

Former Gov. Scott Walker, the Republican who brokered the deal, emphasized in a tweet Wednesday that Foxconn earns

tax credits only for actual investment and job creation. "No jobs/investment? No credits. Period," Walker tweeted.

Republican legislative leaders who pushed the project blamed new Democratic Gov. Tony Evers for Foxconn's change in plans. They said he had created an air of economic uncertainty by supporting elimination of a manufacturing tax credit program.

Evers was critical of Foxconn in the campaign against Walker but did not pledge to undo the deal. His top aide Joel Brennan said that the administration was surprised by the news from Foxconn. He did not address the accusations Evers was to blame.

Democratic critics said the incentives promised to Foxconn were too rich, and they questioned whether the company would ever fulfill its promises.

The president of Wisconsin's Technology Council, Tom Still, said he is not surprised Foxconn wants to change course since televisions are becoming less expensive and iPhone sales are declining.

Still, whose group nurtures technology in Wisconsin, said Foxconn can succeed if the plant becomes more research-oriented because its areas of interest match up with Wisconsin's strengths, such as robotics, medical imaging and industrial imaging.

Last summer, Trump highlighted his economic policies at a groundbreaking event for the Foxconn complex. □

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Trump disputes intel chiefs on N. Korea, Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump lashed out at his intelligence chiefs on Wednesday after they told Congress that North Korea is unlikely to dismantle its nuclear arsenal and that the Iran nuclear deal is working.

"Perhaps Intelligence should go back to school!" Trump tweeted.

Democratic lawmakers serving on Congress' intelligence committees accused Trump of undermining U.S. intelligence professionals.

At a hearing Tuesday, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said intelligence information does not support the idea that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will eliminate his nuclear weapons.

Trump insisted Wednesday on Twitter that the U.S. relationship with North Korea "is the best it has ever been." He pointed to a halt in nuclear and missile tests by North Korea, the return of some U.S. service members' remains and the release of detained Americans as signs of progress.

Kim committed to denuclearization after meeting with Trump last year. A second Trump-Kim meeting is expected in February.

The U.S. intelligence agencies also said Iran continues to work with other par-

ties to the nuclear deal it reached with the U.S. and other world powers. In doing so, they said, it has at least temporarily lessened the nuclear threat.

In May 2018, Trump withdrew the U.S. from that accord, which he called a terrible deal that would not stop Iran from going nuclear.

"The Intelligence people seem to be extremely passive and naive when it comes to the dangers of Iran," Trump tweeted. "They are wrong!"

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House intelligence committee, credited the agencies with providing "rigorous and realistic analyses" of threats facing the nation. "It's deeply dangerous that the White House isn't listening," Schiff tweeted.

Mark Warner of Virginia, the senior Democrat on the Senate's intelligence panel, also expressed displeasure with Trump's comments.

"The President has a dangerous habit of undermining the intelligence community to fit his alternate reality," Warner tweeted. "People risk their lives for the intelligence he just tosses aside on Twitter."

Trump receives regular intelligence briefings and another was scheduled for Wednesday. □



From left, FBI Director Christopher Wray, CIA Director Gina Haspel and Director of National Intelligence Daniel Coats arrive to testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

The high-stakes talks are taking place against the backdrop of another possible shutdown in mid-February — an outcome Trump's GOP allies in the Senate are especially eager to avoid. But while Trump's rhetoric has cooled, he's proven to be an unpredictable force in the shutdown debate, often veering back to his original demands for the wall. Lawmakers negotiating the bill are well aware that he could move to quash an agreement at any time, plunging them back into crisis.

Still, Trump's request for \$5.7 billion to build about 234 miles of barriers along the U.S. border with Mexico faces uphill odds. Even Trump's GOP allies acknowledge he may only get a fraction of it. The Democratic plan includes new money for customs agents, scanners, aircraft and boats to police the border, and to provide humanitarian assistance for migrants. "Democrats are once again supporting strong border security as an essential component of homeland security. Border security, however, is more than physical barriers; and homeland security is more than border security," said Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif.

Senators revisited a bipartisan \$1.6 billion proposal for 65 miles of fencing in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas that passed a key committee last year. The panel of old-school lawmakers from



House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., speaks at an event to advocate for the Paycheck Fairness Act on the 10th anniversary of President Barack Obama signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019.

Associated Press

the powerful appropriations committees has ample expertise on homeland security issues, as many of them helped finance fence built over the years that stretches across much of the 1,954-mile border.

"Because of the work we did years ago we've already built almost 700 miles of fencing on our nation's border," said Rep. David Price, D-N.C. "Whatever the president may say it is far from an open border. Meanwhile, the number of undocumented immigrants crossing our border or attempting to cross remain not at alarming highs but at historic lows."

Republican allies of the president said there will have to be some money

to meet Trump's demands. But they also predict privately that the White House is eager to grab an agreement and declare victory — even if winning only a fraction of Trump's request. "The components of border security are people, technology and a barrier. And everybody has voted for all three," said Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D. "To get to an agreement we've got to have all three in there."

But as talks on the homeland security budget open, Trump and Republicans are in a weakened position just 17 days before the government runs out of money again without a deal. Democrats won back the House in a midterm rout and prevailed over Trump in the

shutdown battle.

"Smart border security is not overly reliant on physical barriers," House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., said as the session began. She said the Trump administration has failed to demonstrate that physical barriers are cost effective compared with better technology and more personnel. The comments at once served notice that Democrats weren't ruling out financing physical structures, but would do so only on a limited basis.

Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, said that while Republicans favor improved border security technology, "Smart

technology alone does not actually stop anyone from crossing into the U.S. illegally." Shelby said physical barriers are needed "not from coast to coast, but strategically placed where traffic is highest." That echoed recent remarks by Trump as he's retreated from his more strident comments from the 2016 presidential campaign.

The president surrendered last Friday and agreed to reopen government for three weeks so negotiators can seek a border security deal, but with no commitments for wall funds. If negotiations on the 17-member panel falter, one option would be to enact another temporary government funding measure to replace the current one, which expires Feb. 15.

Trump tweeted Wednesday morning, hours before the negotiators were to sit down for their first meeting, that the group of Republicans and Democrats is "Wasting their time!" if they aren't "discussing or contemplating a Wall or Physical Barrier."

Prospects for broadening the scope of the talks to include broader immigration issues such as providing protection against deportation to "Dreamer" immigrants brought illegally to the country as children — or even must-do legislation to increase the government's borrowing cap — appeared to be fading. "It's just a matter of border security at this moment," Democrat Lowey said. □

Judge: PG&E put profits over wildfire safety

By SUDHIN THANAWALA

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A U.S. judge berated Pacific Gas & Electric Co. on Wednesday, accusing the nation's largest utility of enriching shareholders instead of clearing trees that can fall on its power lines and start fires and making "excuses" to avoid turning off electricity when fire risk is high.

Judge William Alsup in San Francisco did not immediately order PG&E to take any of the dramatic measures he has proposed to try to stop more wildfires.

But he warned that he was not ruling out at least some new requirements on the company if it did not come up with a plan to "solve" the problem of catastrophic wildfires in California.

"To my mind, there's a very clear-cut pattern here: that PG&E is starting these fires," Alsup said. "What do we do? Does the judge just turn a blind eye and say, 'PG&E continue your business as usual. Kill more people by starting more fires.'"

Alsup is overseeing a criminal conviction against PG&E on pipeline safety charges stemming from a 2010 gas line explosion in the San Francisco Bay Area that killed eight people and destroyed 38 homes.

He proposed earlier this month as part of PG&E's probation that it remove or trim all trees that could fall onto its power lines in high-wind conditions and shut off power when fire is a risk regardless of the inconvenience to customers or loss of profit. Alsup said his goal was to prevent PG&E equipment from causing any wildfires during the 2019 fire season.

PG&E shot back in a court filing last week that the judge's proposals would endanger lives and could cost as much as \$150 billion to implement.

Kevin Orsini, an attorney for the company, said PG&E shared the judge's concerns about wildfire and was working to reduce risk. But there weren't enough qualified tree trimmers, and

shutting off power would have "repercussions that affect the community," he said.

Power cutoffs impact first responders, critical medical care and phone service and are potentially fatal, the utility said in its court filing.

"PG&E is facing a fundamental problem. The state is facing a fundamental problem," Orsini said.

Attorneys for wildfire victims, California regulators and the U.S. Department of Justice also spoke at Wednesday's hearing.

Alsup was also critical of the California Public Utilities Commission, accusing it of working slowly and using former PG&E employees. The judge later apologized for those comments but still questioned how so many fires broke out under the CPUC's watch.

An attorney with the CPUC, Christine Hammond, said she couldn't comment on fires that were still under investigation. But she said wildfires in California were an incredible challenge that involved factors such as climate change.

The utility's return to a U.S. courtroom came a day after it declared bankruptcy in the face of billions of dollars in potential liability from wildfires in California in 2017 and 2018.

Alsup only briefly mentioned the bankruptcy case during Wednesday's hearing. Filing for bankruptcy generally does not put criminal proceedings on hold, so PG&E's Chapter 11 reorganization may not allow it to avoid any orders issued by Alsup.

The judge found separately that PG&E violated its probation for failing to notify probation officials that a prosecutor's office had opened a full investigation into the utility's role in a 2017 California wildfire. Alsup said he would set a sentencing date later.

Kate Dyer, another attorney for PG&E, said the company had communicated with probation officials and didn't hear until recently that it had not met

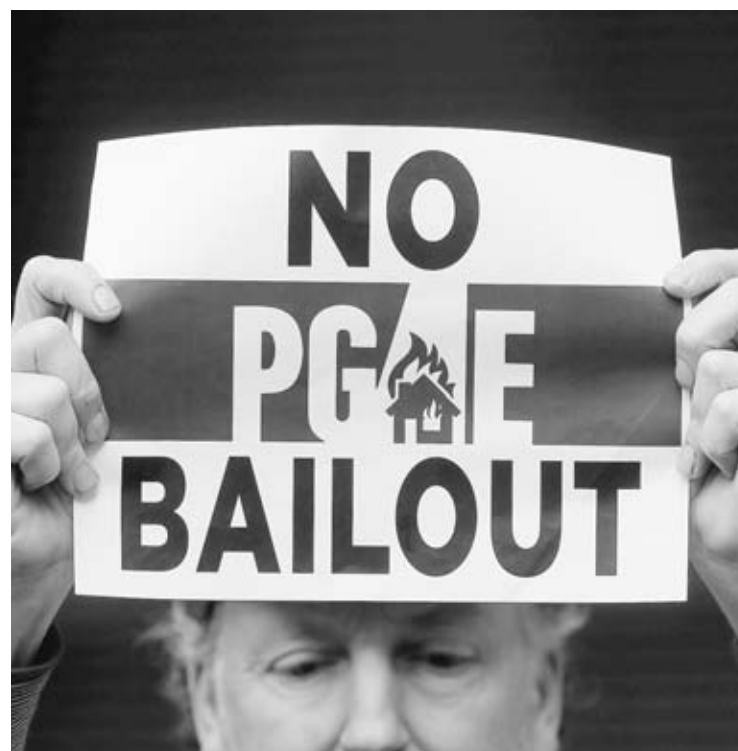
their expectations.

Alsup said he would wait to see a wildfire mitigation plan PG&E was scheduled to submit to the CPUC on Feb. 6 before deciding what, if any, additional requirements to order.

PG&E is facing hundreds of lawsuits from victims of wildfires in 2017 and 2018, including the nation's deadliest wildfire in a century.

That blaze in November killed at least 86 people and destroyed 15,000 homes in and around the Northern California town of Paradise.

The cause is still under investigation, but suspicion fell on PG&E after it reported power line problems nearby around the time the fire broke out. □



A man holds up a sign at a rally before a California Public Utilities Commission meeting in San Francisco, Monday, Jan. 28, 2019.
Associated Press



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AP-NORC poll: Most Americans see nation on the wrong track



In this Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, waitress Kelcie Tipping, left, speaks with fellow waitress Mariam Touray, right, at the Modern Diner in Pawtucket, R.I.

Associated Press

By MICHELLE R. SMITH and EMILY SWANSON

PAWTUCKET, R.I. (AP) — The state of the union is dark. A large majority of Americans say they are pessimistic about the state of the country and few expect things will get better in the year ahead, according to a poll released Tuesday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. A week before President Donald Trump delivers his assessment of the nation in a State of the Union speech to Congress delayed by a record-setting government shutdown, the survey found just 28 percent of Americans think the country is headed in the right direction. Meanwhile, 70 percent say America is headed the wrong way. That's up from 59 percent in December, with the percentage of those saying the country is on the wrong track now at its highest point in about a

year. A majority of Americans, 52 percent, also believe things are going to get worse over the next year. While Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to feel negative about the direction of the country, even Republican pessimism is on the rise. The poll found 55 percent of Republicans and just 9 percent of Democrats think the country is headed in the right direction. A month ago, 69 percent of Republicans and 16 percent of Democrats said the same. Jim Wadkowski, an 80-year-old self-described conservative from Fountain, Colorado, said he approves of the job Trump is doing but sees the nation going the wrong way. "All they do is fight. If one party thinks it's good, the other thinks it's bad. If the president thinks it's good, the party opposed to him thinks it's bad," he said of the nation's leaders. "They

don't do anything for the people." The remarkable level of national gloom is even beginning to extend to how Americans view the economy, once a relative bright spot in America's mood. Since December's swoon in the stock market, a slim majority of Americans still has positive feelings about the national economy, but many expect it to decline in the next year. The AP-NORC survey was conducted during the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, the result of Trump's desire to deliver on his campaign vow to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border running headlong into the commitment of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Democrats to stop him. When Trump delivers the State of the Union address delayed by that political fight next month, he'll speak to a nation both in need of a pep talk and deeply

skeptical of him as a messenger. The survey found that 34 percent of Americans approve of the way Trump is handling his job as president, compared with 65 percent who disapprove. Carrie Montgomery, a 40-year-old learning specialist from Pawtucket, said she blames Trump for what she sees as an increase in "people's boldness in speaking hatefully to other people." "I'm concerned about the oppression and hatred that the president drives in this country — the safety of citizens and their ability to access their basic human rights," she said. Trump's approval rating is near his all-time low as president, as measured by AP-NORC polling since he took office two years ago. But the survey finds the nation's pessimism reaches beyond the recent budget standoff and its opinion of the president, as doubts about the

economy appear to be growing. For the first time since February 2018, Americans are significantly more likely to disapprove of Trump's handling of the economy than approve. In October, and for much of the last year, about half of Americans approved of Trump's handling of the economy. Democrats are staunchly negative in their ratings of the president overall and on most issues, but about 2 in 10 had approved of the president on the economy last year. Now, only 14 percent of Democrats do so. Americans in general feel better about the state of the economy than about the country in general, but also find increasing anxiety about what will happen in the next year. About half of Americans, 53 percent, describe the economy as generally good. But looking ahead, they're more likely to expect the economy to get worse than better, 44 percent to 27 percent. Another 27 percent expect no change. A month ago, Americans were evenly divided on whether the economy would improve or worsen. The poll shows 8 in 10 Republicans call the current economy good, while just 37 percent of Democrats say the same. And 56 percent of Republicans expect the economy to get better in the next year, while 67 percent of Democrats expect it to get worse. Early in 2018, 68 percent of Republicans expected the economy to improve and 50 percent of Democrats expected it to worsen. At the Modern Diner in Pawtucket, 40-year-old waitress Kelcie Tipping is among the more than half of Americans who believe the economy is still in good shape. She's worked at the restaurant for 10 years, and business is booming, although she's nervous about a future in which robots or other technology could push people out of work. "As long as people are making money," she said. "As long as there's jobs." □



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A warning sign is covered by ice at Clark Square park in Evanston, Ill., Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019.

Associated Press

The impact of the frigid cold, snowstorm, by the numbers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A look at how this week's snowstorm and bitter cold have affected the United States, by the numbers:

22 — Number of states that recorded sub-zero temperatures Wednesday. Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York all saw temperatures that were below zero. New Hampshire also saw sub-zero temperatures at higher elevations. Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Idaho saw temperatures below zero as well, but not as a direct result of the surge of cold air that has hit the Upper Midwest, according to the National

Weather Service.

139 million — Roughly the number of people in the U.S. who were under a wind chill advisory or wind chill warning as of midday Wednesday, according to information from the National Weather Service.

10 — Number of states where mail delivery was suspended either statewide or in part due to dangerously cold conditions, according to the U.S. Postal Service. The affected states include Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

370 — Number of blood drives sponsored by the American Red Cross that had to be cancelled nationwide due to winter weather. □

Parole recommended for Manson follower Leslie Van Houten

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A California panel on Wednesday recommended that Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten be paroled after serving more than four decades in prison.

After a hearing at the women's prison in Chino, California, commissioners of the Board of Parole Hearings found for the third time that the 69-year-old Van Houten was suitable for release.

If her case withstands a 150-day review process, it will rest in the hands of California's new Gov. Gavin Newsom. Van Houten was recommended for parole twice previously, but then Gov. Jerry Brown blocked her release.

Van Houten was among the followers in Manson's murderous cult who stabbed to death wealthy grocer Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary, in 1969. Van Houten was 19 during the killings, which came a day after other Manson followers killed pregnant actress Sharon Tate and four others in Los Angeles.

Tate's sister attended Wednesday's proceedings and said afterward that she vehemently disagrees with the parole recommendation.

"I just have to hope and pray that the governor comes to the right decision" and keeps Van Houten behind bars, Debra Tate said. Newsom's office didn't im-



This Sept. 6, 2017 file photo shows Leslie Van Houten at her parole hearing at the California Institution for Women in Corona, Calif.

Associated Press

mediately respond to a request for comment.

In his decision last year, Brown acknowledged Van Houten's youth at the time of the crime, her more than four decades of good behavior as a prisoner and her abuse at the hands of Manson. But he said she still laid too much blame on Manson for the murders. At her last hearing, Van Houten described a troubled childhood. She said she was devastated when her parents divorced when she was 14. Soon after, she said, she began hanging out with her school's outcast crowd and using drugs. When she was 17, she and her boyfriend ran away to San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury District during the city's Summer of Love.

She was traveling up and down the California coast

when acquaintances led her to Manson. He was holed up at an abandoned movie ranch on the outskirts of Los Angeles where he had recruited what he called a "family" to survive what he insisted would be a race war he would launch by committing a series of random, horrifying murders. Van Houten said she joined several other members of the group in killing the LaBiancas, carving up Leno LaBianca's body and smearing the couple's blood on the walls.

No one who took part in the Tate-LaBianca murders has been released from prison.

Van Houten's lawyer, Rich Pfeiffer, said before the hearing that he expected a parole recommendation. He didn't immediately respond to a request for comment after the decision. □

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EU won't budge on Brexit deal as May seeks cross-party unity

By RAF CASERT

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders offered a united chorus of "No" on Wednesday to Britain's belated bid to negotiate changes to the Brexit divorce deal, with one official calling on British lawmakers to stop bickering and work out a cross-party approach.

In London, Prime Minister Theresa May acknowledged that her government hasn't decided exactly how it will try to change the deal to address British lawmakers' concerns about the Irish border.

All this while Britain is headed for the EU exit in less than two months, on March 29.

"We are, quite simply, running out of road," Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said.

Buoyed by winning a vote in Parliament, May has vowed to secure "legally binding changes" to the withdrawal agreement. British lawmakers voted Tuesday to send May back to Brussels seeking to replace an Irish border provision in the deal with "alternative arrangements," ignoring EU warnings that the agreement can't be altered.

But EU leaders saw the House of Commons session in a very different light.

Jean-Claude Juncker, chief of EU executive arm the European Commission, said Tuesday's vote "has increased the risk of a disorderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom" from the EU.

"The withdrawal agreement will not be renegotiated," he said.



EU Commission President Jean Claude Juncker, left, and European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier talk during a plenary session at the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday Jan. 30, 2019.

Associated Press

ated," he said.

Other EU governments backed that stance, leaving little room for May to realistically secure any changes to the Brexit deal. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said that "we've been down that track before and I don't believe that such alternative arrangements exist." German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said "opening up the withdrawal agreement is not on the agenda."

Britain and the EU struck a divorce deal in November after a year and a half of tense negotiations. But the agreement has run aground in Britain's Parliament, which overwhelmingly rejected it on Jan. 15. Much of the opposition centers on a border measure known as the "backstop," a safeguard mechanism would keep the U.K. in

a customs union with the EU to remove the need for checks along the border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland after Brexit.

The border area was a flashpoint during decades of conflict in Northern Ireland that cost 3,700 lives. The free flow of people and goods across the near-invisible border underpins both the local economy and Northern Ireland's peace process.

Many pro-Brexit British lawmakers fear the backstop will trap Britain in regulatory lockstep with the EU, and say they won't vote for May's deal unless it is removed.

May was speaking to Ireland's Varadkar and European Council President Donald Tusk on Wednesday, and met opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn in an attempt

to find elusive cross-party unity on Brexit.

May conceded that her government hadn't settled on a way to replace the backstop, telling lawmakers that "there are a number of proposals for how that could be done." May said measures under consideration included a unilateral exit mechanism from the backstop for Britain, a time limit to the backstop and "mutual recognition and trusted trader schemes."

The EU says the backstop is an insurance policy and as such can't have a time limit or a get-out clause.

Chief EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said that "frankly, no one from either side is able to say precisely, in a clear way, what the nature of these alternative arrangements would be, whether they would be workable and effectively fulfill the aims of the back-

stop."

The EU parliament's pointman on Brexit, Guy Verhofstadt, underlined that nobody in Europe wanted to use the backstop, but that it's "needed to be 100 percent sure that there is no border between Northern Ireland and the Irish republic."

Verhofstadt said the only way for May to win concessions would be to back away from her long-held stance that Britain would not remain part of the EU's customs union after Brexit.

"If the future relationship is, for example, a customs union, that makes it completely different," Verhofstadt told reporters.

Corbyn, who heads Britain's left-wing main opposition party, said he "set out the Labour case for a comprehensive customs union with the European Union" during talks with May.

He called the talks "serious" but accused the government of "running down the clock" to force lawmakers to choose between May's deal and a "no-deal" Brexit in March 29. Verhofstadt called for a cross-party approach in Britain, saying he hoped the meeting between the Conservative and Labour leaders will yield something more than "only eating biscuits and drinking tea." If they start working together, he said, "it could be the solution to this problem." Many businesses fear economic chaos will ensue if the U.K. isn't covered by existing EU trade agreements or a new agreement, leading to tariffs, customs checks and other barriers between the U.K. and the EU. □

Egypt arrests activists after commemoration of uprising

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has rounded up at least six activists in the last couple of days in a wave of arrests coinciding with the anniversary of the 2011 uprising, a rights lawyer said Wednesday.

Authorities have waged a sweeping crackdown on dissent in recent years, reversing freedoms won in the popular uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak. Security is especially tight around the anniversary of the Jan. 25 uprising and public commemorations of it are largely banned.

Negad Borai, the lawyer, said that among those arrested in the past two days is Yehia Hussein Abdel Hady, the former spokesman of the Civil Democratic Movement. The coalition of secular and left-leaning political parties had called for a boycott of Egypt's presidential election last year.

The other five activists were arrested on Monday after



In this Jan. 1, 2015 file photo, Egyptian lawyer Negad al-Borai, center left, leaves the high court after a hearing, in Cairo, Egypt.

Associated Press

they attended a ceremony commemorating the uprising, Borai said.

The five were members of the Karama, or Dignity, party founded by oppo-

sition leader Hamdeen Sabahi, the only candidate who ran against President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi in the 2014 presidential election.

The whereabouts of the six

activists are still unknown, Borai said. A spokesman for Egypt's Interior Ministry, which oversees police, did not respond to phone calls and messages seeking

comment.

It was not clear if the activists are among 54 people who authorities said Tuesday were detained for plotting to foment chaos on the anniversary of the uprising. The Interior Ministry said those individuals, most of them alleged members of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group, were arrested over the past weeks in different locations.

Egyptian prosecutors on Wednesday also ordered 25 people already in custody detained for 15 more days pending an investigation.

The Supreme State Security Prosecution said the suspects are accused of membership in an outlawed group, Egyptian parlance for the Muslim Brotherhood. They also face charges of illegal protesting. There was no announcement from prosecutors about the others.

The Muslim Brotherhood won a series of elections after the 2011 uprising. □

Russian lawmaker detained in parliament in murder probe

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian lawmaker suspected of involvement in two killings was detained on Wednesday at parliament in front of stunned members of the upper house after he tried to escape but was stopped by the speaker.

Rauf Arashukov, 32, who represents the Karachaevo-Cherkessiya region in the North Caucasus, was detained Wednesday morning after the upper house voted to strip him of immunity from prosecution. Russia's Prosecutor General and the head of the Investigative Committee that deals with high-profile crimes attended the immunity vote.

Arashukov is suspected of orchestrating the killing of a well-known activist and an adviser to the leader of Karachaevo-Cherkessiya in 2010. Russian news website RBC last year quoted investigation sources as saying that three people testified against the lawmaker, ac-



Russian lawmaker Rauf Arashukov smiles during hearings in a court in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019.

Associated Press

cusing him of ordering the killing of local activist Aslan Zhukov, who was fatally shot outside his house. The man's sister last year publicly came forward against

Arashukov. Arashukov, the son of a prominent businessman, was nominated by the local legislature to serve in the Russian upper house,

the Federation Council, in 2016 to become its youngest member.

The house speaker, Valentina Matvienko, said that Arashukov tried to walk out

of the hall while the deputies were discussing a motion to strip him of immunity from prosecution.

"He tried to get up and leave the session, and I told him to sit down because he was supposed to speak and give an explanation — and he went back," Matvienko said in televised comments.

Lawmaker Sergei Kalashnikov, who was there when security officers detained Arashukov, said that no one was expecting it to happen.

"That was a complete surprise to everyone including the suspect who was late for the session," Kalashnikov told the Interfax news agency.

Moscow's Basmany District Court later ordered that Arashukov should remain in custody pending the criminal probe, rejecting the defense's plea to put him under house arrest or allow bail. Prosecutors argued that he could flee abroad. □

Israel leader scorned for wooing Holocaust-distorting allies

By ARON HELLER

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's warm welcome to Lithuania's prime minister marks his latest embrace of an eastern European leader who has offered strong political support while promoting a distorted image of the Holocaust.

Lithuania is among a slew of former communist nations swept up in a wave of World War II-era revisionism that seeks to diminish their culpability in the Holocaust while making heroes out of anti-Soviet nationalists involved in the mass killing of Jews. In Israel, established in the wake of the Nazi genocide of 6 million Jews, many say Netanyahu is cynically betraying the victims' memory.

Lithuania, for instance, has been a leading force behind creating a joint memorial day for all victims of totalitarianism, blurring the distinction between the crimes of the Nazis and the communists who fought them.

It also has pushed for legislation to prohibit the sale of books that "distort Lithuanian history" by citing the rampant, documented collaboration of the local population with Nazis. Most recently it has resisted calls to remove the various plaques commemorating anti-Soviet fighter Jonas Noreika, despite recent revelations by his own granddaughter, Silvia Foti, that he was a fierce anti-Semite who had a role in the murder of thousands of Jews.

Nearly all of Lithuania's 200,000 Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

When Netanyahu, who has Lithuanian roots, visited Vilnius last year, he praised Prime Minister Saulius



Lithuania's Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis puts on a kippa, the traditional Jewish skullcap for men, as he enters the Hall of Remembrance at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, Tuesday Jan. 29, 2019.

Associated Press

Skvernelis for taking "great steps to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust" and for fighting modern-day anti-Semitism.

"It's unforgivable. Netanyahu is giving them a green light," said Efraim Zuroff, the chief Nazi-hunter of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "It's like praising the Ku Klux Klan for improving racial relations in the South."

"We have to say the truth. We owe it to the victims," he added.

In a meeting with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin on Tuesday, Skvernelis said "Lithuania has been learning the lessons of the past" and was "improving the life of the Jewish community and restoring historical sites."

At Tuesday's meeting, Netanyahu treaded cautiously. He referred to the "tragedies of the past" but steered clear of any criticism of modern Lithuania, praising the "spirit of friendship" and "a bridge from the past to a future."

Skvernelis' visit comes a week after Netanyahu similarly rolled out the red carpet for President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine, whose parliament just designated the birthday of Ukrainian wartime collaborator Stepan Bandera a national

holiday. A regional legislature declared 2019 "the year of Stepan Bandera." Bandera's forces fought alongside the Nazis and were implicated in the murder of thousands of Jews. As Poroshenko was visiting Israel, another memorial was being erected in Kiev for Symon Petliura, whose troops are linked to pogroms that killed as many as 50,000 Jews after World War I.

Netanyahu's outreach in eastern Europe is part of his larger strategy of forging alliances to counter the criticism Israel faces in the United Nations and other international forums over its treatment of the Palestinians.

Critics consider it a deal with the devil. They say Netanyahu — who often invokes the Holocaust when inveighing against archrival Iran — turns a blind eye when it comes to like-minded allies.

"It's a specific maneuver that legitimizes anti-Semitism and borders on Holocaust denial," said Tamar Zandberg, leader of the dovish Meretz party. The prime minister's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Under communist rule, the Holocaust was not seri-

ously dealt with and, upon independence, the new-found eastern and central European nations sought to canonize nationalist icons who resisted the Soviets, while largely ignoring their crimes alongside the Nazis. Domestic academics who have challenged the false narrative have been shamed, and external criticism has often been met with new anti-Semitic outbursts.

For countries like Lithuania and Ukraine, the warm embrace of the Israeli leader provides a strong defense against accusation of anti-Semitism while also strengthening ties with a close U.S. ally.

Netanyahu has also formed a close alliance with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who has lavished praise on Miklos Horthy, Hungary's World War II-era ruler, who introduced anti-Semitic laws and collaborated with the Nazis. Orban has also employed anti-Semitic tropes against the Jewish Hungarian-American billionaire philanthropist George Soros and backed a state-funded museum that experts say plays down the role of Hungarian collaborators.

Netanyahu also struck a deal with Polish leaders

over their country's controversial Holocaust speech law, which would have criminalized blaming the Polish nation for crimes committed against Jews during World War II.

Israeli Holocaust historians slammed the agreement, which seemed to accept a Polish narrative that they were only victims of the Nazis. Scholars say anti-Semitism was deeply rooted in pre-war Poland and Poles might have either killed or helped Germans kill up to 200,000 Jews.

Still, Netanyahu has invited Orban and Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki — who last year equated Polish perpetrators in the Holocaust to supposed "Jewish perpetrators" — to Israel in February for a summit with the leaders of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist Yesh Atid party and the son of a Holocaust survivor, called on Netanyahu to cancel the meeting, saying one prime minister has "published anti-Semitic content" and another "passed a law desecrating the memory of Holocaust victims."

In an annual report Sunday, Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs said 2018 saw a record number of worldwide anti-Semitic attacks, with most carried out by neo-Nazis in Europe and white supremacists.

But at his Cabinet meeting later in the day, Netanyahu singled out "Islamic anti-Semitism and the anti-Semitism of the extreme left, which includes anti-Zionism."

Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, which hosts all visiting foreign dignitaries, has been thrust into the controversy.

While it says it will never disqualify anyone wishing to visit, Yad Vashem insists it will "forcefully" address any denial or distortion. Yad Vashem said the Lithuanian leader received a comprehensive explanation of the Holocaust, including details about "the murder of Jews of Lithuania by the Nazis and their Lithuanian collaborators." □

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Bangkok schools closed over air pollution concerns

By KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — More than 400 schools in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, were shut for the rest of the week Wednesday due to increasing concern over dangerously unhealthy air pollution.

Faced with public discontent as well as a possible health crisis, Police Gen. Asawin Kwanmuang, the city's governor, also declared the city a "pollution control zone," allowing authorities to take legal measures to combat the threat, including road closings and diversions. Violators of orders to curb pollution, which could include limits on diesel exhaust, outdoor burning and construction activities, could face up to three months in prison.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha directed Asawin to order the closure

of 437 schools after officials said the pollution would continue until next Monday. They said still air and heavy traffic are causing a buildup of particles in the air.

The Pollution Control Department said the amount of especially dangerous tiny "PM 2.5" particles has risen in all areas in and around Bangkok since Monday.

"We decided to eliminate the problem by closing down the schools," Asawin said. "We're afraid that it can be dangerous for the children." Technical colleges are included among the closed institutions but universities are still considering what to do.

Mongkolsak Lajina, the father of a 5-year-old student, suggested that closing schools was a token gesture.

"I don't think it will help



Bangkok's cityscape is covered in thick smog Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019.

Associated Press

much. It helps that students do not have to commute to schools," he said. "But we need better measures to effectively deal with this problem."

The Public Health Ministry said people should refrain from outdoor activities and exercise, and look instead for indoor venues. Many

commuters and pedestrians have begun wearing face masks.

"These measures will help only temporarily," said Aek Pongpairaj, a doctor living in Bangkok. "If we want a long-lasting solution, all sectors must be involved, not just government agencies; for example, the private

sector involving construction. There are so many construction sites and I can see that preventive measures aren't enough."

Pollution levels also rose elsewhere in Thailand, bringing a heavy haze to Chiang Mai and other northern areas well ahead of the annual "smoky season" that normally begins in late February, when farmers burn agricultural waste and dry weather allows airborne particles to accumulate.

Efforts to reduce the pollution level in Bangkok by hosing down roads and spraying water in the air have been criticized as ineffective.

People were asked to limit open-air burning of materials, and have even been advised to use shorter incense sticks in upcoming Lunar New Year celebrations. □

Ally of S. Korea leader jailed over opinion rigging scandal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

A political ally of South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Wednesday received a two-year prison term for his involvement in an online opinion rigging scandal.

The conviction of South Gyeongsang Gov. Kim Kyo-ung-soo is a blow to Moon, a liberal who is struggling to revive stalled negotiations on North Korea's nuclear program and address diverse economic woes at home.

The Seoul Central District Court said that Kim was immediately arrested after his conviction. He was to be held at a detention facility near Seoul, a court official said, requesting anonymity citing department rules.

Both Kim and prosecutors have one week to appeal.

If Kim's prison term is upheld in higher courts, he will be stripped of his governor post, the court official said. The court gave no further details. But local media reported Kim allegedly colluded with a power blogger to sway online public opinion to support Moon ahead of the 2017 presidential election.

Moon isn't directly involved in the scandal. His office called Kim's conviction "totally unexpected."

"We will calmly watch until the final verdict" by the highest court is issued, said presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom.

The 2017 election was held after Moon's conservative predecessor Park Geun-hye was removed from office for corruption. It was

unclear how much Kim's opinion rigging helped Moon's campaign. He won an easy victory while South Korean conservatives were badly hurt and split over the Park scandal.

The opinion rigging scandal is widely viewed as ironic as Moon was a victim of a smear online campaign launched by South Korea's spy agency to help Park defeat him ahead of the 2012 election, when Park's conservative predecessor Lee Myung-bak was in power.

High-profile corruption scandals routinely take place in South Korea, Asia's fourth largest economy, which achieved democracy in the late 1980s following decades of military-backed dictatorships.

Nearly all South Korean presidents have been arrested or embroiled in scandals at the close of their terms or after leaving

office.

Both Park and Lee are serving lengthy prison terms over separate corruption scandals. □

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Venezuelans take to streets in walkout to push Maduro out

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — Doctors in scrubs, businessmen in suits and construction workers in jeans gathered on the streets of Venezuela's capital Wednesday, waving their nation's flag and demanding Nicolas Maduro step down from power in a walkout organized by the nation's reinvigorated opposition to ratchet up pressure on the embattled president.

Protesters said they were heeding the opposition's call for another mass demonstration despite the heavy-handed response by security forces over the last week to quell anti-government protests.

"I'm going out now more than ever," said Sobeia Gonzalez, 63. "We have a lot more faith that this government has very little time left."

The latest walkout comes one week exactly after opposition leader Juan Guaido proclaimed himself the nation's rightful president amid a sea of supporters, hurling the nation into a new chapter of political tumult as the anti-Maduro movement tries to establish a transitional government and the socialist leader clings to power.

"We are staying in the streets," Guaido told students at a surprise appearance at the Central University of Venezuela. "Not just in protest of the crisis we are living in all of Venezuela, not just because of how bad things are, but also for the future."

The 35-year-lawmaker has transformed from a little-known opposition figure into a commanding force in the nation's politics with the backing of U.S. President Donald Trump and two dozen other nations recognizing him as Venezuela's interim president.

The turmoil has morphed into a larger geopolitical standoff as Maduro accuses the U.S. of orchestrating a coup by backing Guaido and enacting punishing oil sanctions while powerful Venezuela allies China and Russia continue to stand by



People holding signs with a message that reads in Spanish: "No more dictatorship" take part in a walk out against President Nicolas Maduro, in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019.

Associated Press

the president.

On Tuesday, the government-stacked Supreme Court barred Guaido from leaving the country and froze his bank accounts as a probe into his anti-government activities led by Maduro-ally and chief prosecutor Tarek William Saab advances. U.S. national security adviser John Bolton warned that if Guaido is harmed Venezuela will face "serious consequences."

Guaido has thus far managed to avoid arrest and the Supreme Court did not strip him of his legislative immunity, though the new investigation could signal that Maduro's administration is moving to take a more punitive approach in the days ahead.

Speaking at the walkout, Guaido said he wasn't losing any sleep over the probe. "We don't want to leave the country," he said. "We want people to return."

Maduro huddled Wednesday with military troops, prayed with evangelical supporters and released a video urging the American people to rise up against

Trump and support him as Venezuela's rightful leader. He said Trump has his eyes on Venezuela's vast oil reserves and warned against any U.S. military intervention.

"We won't allow a Vietnam in Latin America," Maduro said. "If the aim of the United States is to invade, they'll have a Vietnam worse than can be imagined."

Maduro has been overseeing military training exercises broadcast on state television on a near-daily basis over the past week in an apparent attempt to show he still has the backing of the armed forces, whose support is key to either man's claim to the presidency.

In an interview with Russia's state-owned RIA Novosti news agency, Maduro said he was "willing to sit down for talks with the opposition for the sake of Venezuela's peace and its future," an offer he has repeated often but that the opposition is reluctant to accept. He also accused Trump of ordering a hit on him from Colombia but offered no proof.

The already distressed nation is likely to face even tougher times soon after the U.S. imposed sanctions Monday on Venezuela's state-owned oil company, potentially depriving the Maduro government of \$11 billion in export revenues over the next year.

Maduro called the sanctions "criminal" and vowed to challenge the U.S. in court.

Violent street demonstrations erupted last week after Guaido declared during a huge opposition rally in Caracas that he had assumed presidential powers under the constitution and planned to hold fresh elections to end Maduro's "dictatorship."

Under Venezuela's constitution, the head of the National Assembly is empowered to take on the duties of the chief executive under a range of circumstances in which the presidency is vacated. The opposition contends that Maduro's reelection was a sham because, among other things, top opposition candidates were barred from running and that his

new second term is therefore illegitimate.

The U.N. human rights office says security forces in Venezuela detained nearly 700 people in just one day of anti-government protests last week — the highest such tally in a single day in the country in at least 20 years — and that more than 40 people were killed. Maduro's allies blame the opposition for the violence and deny the high death toll as well as reports that minors were among those arrested.

Guaido called on Venezuelans to take to the streets Wednesday holding signs stating "your reasons for fighting" and urging the armed forces to join them.

"I want a free Venezuela," several protesters in the Chacao district of the capital wrote on their signs as passing cars and trucks honked their horns in support. Others chanted, "Maduro is a delinquent, not a president!"

A row of National Guardsmen blocked off one street in Caracas to stop protesters from going through but there weren't any reports of violent confrontations as happened last week.

The walkout drew a cross-section of Venezuelan society ranging from professionals to blue-collar workers, though participation appeared to be lower in some of the poorer enclaves that are traditional government strongholds.

A few of demonstrators from the Catia neighborhood, where protesters set barricades on fire last week, said they didn't feel safe protesting there and joined the walkout from wealthier districts instead.

Among the protesters was Dr. Hugo Rosillo, who stood outside a children's hospital just blocks from Maduro's presidential palace. He said he and others were fed up with not being able to treat their patients facing life-threatening illnesses like cancer because of shortages of medical supplies.

The hospital has turned into just "a storeroom for cadavers," he said. □

LOCAL

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sales team of Aruba Living Today. Services of Vicky and Randolph go beyond as their strength is that they offer all from A to Z. "We are also an insurance broker, we support you with the purchases of furniture and appliances, and we arrange all utilities like water and electricity connection and make one-stop-shopping point a fact." Randolph considers themselves an information and connection booth where clients have absolutely no worries from the moment they are on board. "Most importantly is that we are also here after the purchase, we believe in a long-term relationship with a family feeling. Aruba is known for that. Aruba Living Today is here for ten years already and we believe our secret is that long-term commitment we make."

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Student Affairs

By Louedska Maduro

First Impression

ORANJESTAD — Since the beginning of my study at the University of Aruba, I have always wanted to participate in an exchange abroad. I made this one of my main goals while attending the university, thus I did my best to get as much information as possible about doing an exchange abroad, getting good grades and preparing myself mentally to experience a whole new environment. Who would have thought, that three years would have gone so fast, and now here I am, in my dorm at the University of South Carolina.

My journey as an exchange student started on January 8th, 2019. I woke up that morning and the first thing I thought to myself was how fast time flew by. I double checked if I had everything. Passport? Checked. Luggage? Checked. Ready to say goodbye to my loved ones? Well, that was a whole other story. I was nervous, since this would be my first time leaving the island and I had no idea what to expect. But I came back to the thought that I had this morning, which was that time passes by quickly and I would see them soon enough. In addition, it was not as if I was going away for five or ten years. I was constantly reminded by my loved ones that this will be an experience I will always remember, and this experience will help me grow in many ways.



I was also traveling with another classmate of mine. This is also her first time leaving the island. So, try to imagine two, nervous yet excited ladies who have no clue what to expect trying to find our way and place in South Carolina. While I was on the plane, I met two very nice ladies who talked to me about South Carolina and helped me feel less nervous.

The next day, we arrived at the University of South Carolina on the campus of Columbia. The campus was huge. I was told by a student here, that the Columbia campus has approximately 35,000 students enrolled. Thus, this is a big change for me. Afterwards, we were dropped off at our dorms. I was assigned to a building that forms part of the music community. I share my apartment with two other ladies who are locals. Moreover, my building is very centrally located, which I love. The building is close to various places where I can get food and make use of the meal plan options

by paying with the Carolina card. In addition, my building is a short walking distance to my classes as well. Uber is also cheap here, which makes it efficient for me to get around. I follow courses in Psychology, Sociology, Journalism, Geography and Philosophy. The courses that I follow are Introduction to Psychology, Media and Society, Introduction to Sociology, Geography and Contemporary Moral Issues. I am very excited to learn as much as possible from all these courses, since some of these courses I have never gotten the opportunity to take back home. Moreover, I am positive that these courses will surely contribute to my academic development. The size of the classes varies here. Back home, in Aruba, we are a total of eight students in the class. However, in USC some classes consist of 100 to 300 students. Since I have gotten here, I have managed to get to know some local people and exchange students as well. The exchange stu-

dents are from various parts of the world, such as Mexico, India and China. One thing I know that I should really start getting used to, is the weather in South Carolina. It is very cold, all the time. Transitioning from having a sunny and warm weather 24/7 to cold, windy and sometimes rainy weather will take me some time. Therefore, I can never leave the house without my coat and sweater! Everyone keeps reminding me that in March, the weather will get warmer, so I hope that will be the case. I have managed to convince various people here to visit Aruba, so they can experience the warm and sunny weather, visit the beaches and meet the friendly Arubans. However, in the meanwhile, I will enjoy the cold weather here by going ice skating and drinking some delicious hot chocolate. In my next article, I will update you once again on my journey as an exchange student in South Carolina. Till next time! □



Louedska Maduro, 25 years old, is currently a third-year student at the University of Aruba in the program of Organization, Governance and Management. Louedska takes part in an exchange abroad during the spring semester. She is now attending the University of South Carolina for the upcoming four months and will take this experience as her inspiration for her column Student Affairs. The column will be in the newspaper every other Thursday.

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassador. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were the lovely couple Thomas and Bonnie McGraw from New York, USA.

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for the year-round sunny weather, blue waters and sandy beaches, the good friends they have made, and Aruba's warm and friendly people,

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Barceló Aruba presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



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Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa listed in the “Top 25 Hotels in the Caribbean”



EAGLE BEACH — TripAdvisor congratulates the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa as the “2019 Travelers’ Choice Award Winner” earning a spot on its list of the “Top 25 Hotels in the Caribbean”.

“Over 2,400 Caribbean hotels are featured on TripAdvisor and based on reviews and opinions from millions of travelers the Manchebo Team made it this year to the top 1% of hotels of the Caribbean with an overall number 16 position” says Edgar Roelofs the resort’s general manager. “We are extremely proud of our team members who are all very dedicated to our customers

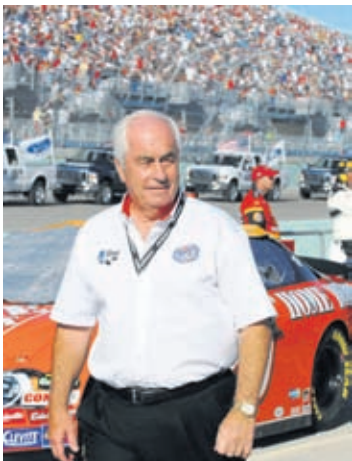
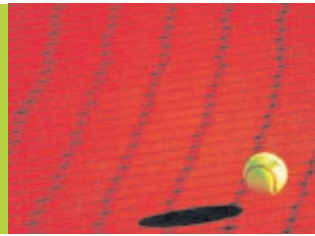
and to the overall success of our resort”. The intimate boutique resort opened its doors 52 years ago on pristine Eagle Beach and today is a paradise for wellness seekers. “Resort guests can enjoy over 12 complimentary yoga and Pilates classes during the week as we like our guests to return home fully rejuvenated” says Carla van Loenen the resort’s sales and wellness manager. Complementing the wellness experience is Spa del Sol - an intimate and inviting open-air oasis designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of health and wellness. The spa overlooks the turquoise blue Caribbean Sea featuring individualized

treatments, including relaxing, hot stone and shiatsu massage therapy, that help to relax the body and restore balance.

Besides the beach and wellness the resort is also renowned for its excellent restaurant offerings for its customers featuring The Chophouse, Ike’s bistro, Omakase Sushi Bar and the Pega-Pega Grill & Beach Bar. The variety of culinary options for resort guests make Manchebo a place to go for wholesome healthy meals and delicious tropical concoctions by our chefs and mixologists. This year Ike’s Bistro’s chefs Sandro Herold and Junior Civil introduced a complete new vegan menu in addition to their Mediterranean & Caribbean fusion cuisine. “We are always on the look out to follow the latest culinary trends and to present innovative dishes and dining experiences for our customers in our resort restaurants” says Sandro Herold the resort’s executive chef.

A 2nd award obtained this year was the 2019 Travelers’ Choice Award Winner for “**Top 25 Hotels for Romance — Caribbean**” with a fantastic # 9 position for 2019. Manchebo is all about romance featuring special welcome treats upon arrival, romantic dining by the rejuvenated pool, hammocks on the beach and couples massages at the spa just to name a few. “Whether you are proposing, getting married, celebrating an anniversary or on your honeymoon, we’ll make it an unforgettable experience” says Tamara Gario the resort’s guest relations manager. □

SPORTS



In this Nov. 18, 2007, file photo, team owner Roger Penske walks along pit road before the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla.
Associated Press

Roger Penske caps banner season with NASCAR Hall induction

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — There was no need for Roger Penske to stay awake for Daytona's 24-hour sports car race. Penske has people to do that for him, and hanging out atop a pit stand watching telemetry for two trips around the clock is slightly below his paygrade. When he did it last year, Team Penske's return season to sports cars racing, somebody had dared "The Captain" to hunker down for the entire Rolex 24 at Daytona. It was an impressive effort many who are far younger than Penske have failed to complete. Once he had finished the first 24-hour race it seemed silly to do it again, particularly during the cold and blustery rainstorm that drowned Daytona International Speedway on Sunday. But Penske had committed to be part of the team for the entire event and Team Penske, so organized and unflappable, had meticulously prepared for the conditions.

Continued on Page 23



BUCK SHOT

**Milwaukee beats Detroit 115-105
and improves to 13-0 after a loss**

Milwaukee Bucks forward Khris Middleton (22) loses the ball as Detroit Pistons guard Reggie Jackson (1) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Detroit, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019.

Lots of questions for Goodell, not a lot of answers

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Pro Football Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Faced with a blitz of officiating questions and queries about the effectiveness of the Rooney Rule, Colin Kaepernick's football unemployment, and the cancellation of a news conference for a Super Bowl halftime show that has drawn hefty criticism, Roger Goodell scrambled.

The NFL commissioner did provide some nuggets of news on Wednesday. He noted establishing a quarterbacks summit at Morehouse College in June to help get more minority coaches into the pipeline of higher-level assistant coaching jobs that are quicker pathways to head coaching opportunities. Otherwise, Goodell generally ducked the rush at his annual State of the NFL appearance as effectively as Russell Wilson.

Naturally, Goodell was peppered with questions, some bordering on demands, to upgrade the officiating 10 days after a non-call late in the NFC championship game pretty much cost the Saints a spot in the Super Bowl.

While agreeing that game officials missed the helmet-to-helmet hit and pass interference penalty by Rams defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman — league officiating chief Al Riveron called Saints coach Sean Payton after the game and admitted the blown call —



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell answers a question during a news conference for the NFL Super Bowl 53 football game Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Goodell said the league will re-examine the officiating process.

He didn't rule out adding such plays to the video review system, and he definitely didn't endorse such a move.

"We will look again at instant replay," said Goodell, who added that league executives recognize the frustration of Saints fans. "There have been a variety of proposals over the last — frankly 15 to 20 years — of should replay be expanded? It does not cover judgment calls. This was a judgment call.

"The other complication is that it was a no-call. And our coaches and clubs have been very resistant and there has not been support to date about

having a replay official or somebody in New York throw a flag when there is no flag (thrown). They have not voted for that in the past. It doesn't mean that we won't. It's something that we're going to put to the competition committee to see if there's an answer to that, but the reality is that's been at least an opposition philosophically for many clubs."

Goodell completely ruled out any use of commissioner's powers to change the call or resume the game; a lawsuit was filed in New Orleans seeking that. He also stressed that he and the competition committee will examine a potential expansion of replay to include helmet-to-helmet hits.

"We have worked very hard to bring technology in to try to make sure we can do whatever possible to address those issues," Goodell said. "But technology is not going to solve all of these issues. The game is not officiated by robots, it's not going to be. But we have to continue to go down that path."

The path to top coaching positions has been a rocky one for minorities. In a report Wednesday, the AP pointed out that on 2018 coaching staffs, only four minorities held the stepping-stone jobs of offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, just 7.1 percent of 56 jobs. That lack of minority coaches in the pipeline helped contribute to the NFL's sharpest-ever

one-year drop in minority head coaches, from eight to three, with Brian Flores soon to become the fourth when he moves from the Patriots to the Dolphins.

Many advocates of diversity in the league have questioned the current effectiveness of the Rooney Rule, in which teams are required to interview at least one minority candidate for any head coach or general manager vacancy.

Goodell defended the rule, which has been used in other industries, emphasizing it has opened opportunities that didn't exist previously.

"We don't look at the success or failure of the Rooney Rule in one-year increments," Goodell said. "We've had the Rooney Rule around for nearly 20 years. It has had an extraordinary impact on the NFL. Over 20 clubs have hired minority (head) coaches in that period of time."

"We want to figure out how we can create a deeper pool of coaches so that they have that opportunity when the coaching opportunities arise."

— On Kaepernick, who some claim has been blackballed by the league for sparking social injustice and police brutality demonstrations during the national anthem, Goodell said: "I think if a team decides that Colin Kaepernick or any other player can help their team win, that's what they'll do. □



Philadelphia Eagles' Malcolm Jenkins, co-founder of the Players Coalition, speaks during a Players Coalition Charitable Foundation news conference for the NFL Super Bowl 53 football game Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The Players Coalition has announced the recipients of

grants totaling \$2 million given to six national nonprofit organizations.

Players Coalition gives 6 grants totaling \$2 million

National Juvenile Defender Center, Communities In Schools, The Justice Collaborative, Year Up, Center for Policing Equity and Advancement Project National Office received the grants. "Our goal has always been to work hand in hand with groups that can provide evidence-based solutions to achieve

change and make a lasting difference on impacted citizens," said Anquan Boldin, a co-founder of the coalition. Boldin and fellow co-founder Malcolm Jenkins, a Pro Bowl safety with the Philadelphia Eagles, highlighted the coalition's goals and plans to impact racial and social inequality. "America has

an incarceration problem," Jenkins said. "Incarceration doesn't solve the problem, it exacerbates the poverty problem in America." The Players Coalition was formed in 2017 and focuses on police and community relations, criminal justice reform and education and economic advancement. □

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Bucks top Pistons 115-105, improve to 13-0 after a loss

By The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 21 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds to help the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Detroit Pistons 115-105 Tuesday night, keeping the distinction of being the league's only team without two straight losses.

The NBA-leading Bucks improved to 13-0 after losing a game.

Milwaukee's Brook Lopez scored 12 of his 14 points in the first quarter when Antetokounmpo was limited to three points because he sat about half the quarter with two fouls.

Eric Bledsoe had 20 points, reserve Pat Connaughton scored 16 points, Khriston Middleton had 15 points and Tony Snell added 11 points for the Bucks, who have won seven of eight.

Reggie Jackson matched a season high with 25 points, Andre Drummond had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Blake Griffin had 18 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Pistons, who have lost four of five.

PELICANS 121, ROCKETS 116
HOUSTON (AP) — Jahlil Okafor scored 27 points and short-handed New Orleans overcame a big early deficit to beat the Houston in its first game since Anthony Davis' agent said the five-time All-Star wanted to be traded.

James Harden scored 37 points for Houston to extend his streak of 30-point games

to 24, but he had a tough shooting night, making 11 of 32 overall and going 6 for 18 from 3-point range. He had 11 rebounds, six assists and four steals.

Jrue Holiday had 19 points, eight assists, six rebounds and a career-high six blocks for New Orleans. Davis sat out his fifth straight game with sprained left index finger.

The Pelicans snapped a three-game skid amid the Davis drama.

SPURS 126, SUNS 124

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Rudy Gay hit a 21-foot jumper at the buzzer and San Antonio overcame Devin Booker's 38 points to escape with a 126-124 victory, extending Phoenix's losing streak to nine games.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and 14 rebounds for San Antonio, which is 2-0 on a four-game homestand despite playing without injured DeMar DeRozan. Gay finished with 16 points, five rebounds and five assists.

The Suns lost their 11th straight in San Antonio. After losing its previous four games by an average of 23 points, Phoenix tied this one with 19.6 seconds remaining.

With time winding down, Gay was isolated and hit a jumper as the clock expired to help San Antonio avoid an upset.

THUNDER 126, MAGIC 117

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Paul George had 37 points, Russell Westbrook posted another triple-double, and

Dennis Schroder scored 18 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter to rally Oklahoma City past Orlando for its sixth straight victory.

Westbrook had 23 points, 14 rebounds and 14 assists in his fourth consecutive triple-double.

Nikola Vucevic led Orlando with 27 points and 11 rebounds. Evan Fournier scored 17 and Aaron Gordon and Terrence Ross added 16 apiece for the Magic, who lost their fourth in a row and seventh in eight games.

76ERS 121, LAKERS 105

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joel Embiid scored 28 points, Jimmy Butler added 20 and Philadelphia cruised past Los Angeles.

Brandon Ingram had a career-high 36 points for the short-handed Lakers, who were missing Kyle Kuzma (hip) along with LeBron James and Lonzo Ball.

Embiid, who also grabbed 11 rebounds, had his NBA-leading 34th game with at least 20 points and 10 boards. He appeared to hurt his back early in the fourth quarter when he fell on an alley-oop attempt but returned later in the game.

Butler was back after missing three games due to a sprained wrist. Ben Simmons scored 19 points and Mike Muscala had 17 for the Sixers, who ran off 12 straight points to take control early.

NETS 122, BULLS 117

NEW YORK (AP) — D'Angelo Russell scored 30 points,



San Antonio Spurs' Rudy Gay (22) shoots the game-winning basket at the end of the team's NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019, in San Antonio. San Antonio won 126-124.

Associated Press

Shabazz Napier had 24 off the bench and Brooklyn beat Chicago for its ninth straight win at home.

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had 18 points and Joe Harris had 17 for the Nets, who have won 13 of their last 14 at Barclays Center and seven of eight overall.

Zach Levine had 26 points and Jabari Parker added 22 points and nine rebounds for the Bulls, who have lost four straight and 10 of 11.

Lauri Markkanen had 18 points and a career-high 19 rebounds.

CAVALIERS 116, WIZARDS

113

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jordan Clarkson scored 28 points, Cedi Osman had 26 and Cleveland held off Washington's fourth-quarter comeback.

Cleveland matched a season high with 15 3-pointers and built a 25-point lead in the fourth before Washington's reserves roared back. Jordan McRae's two foul shots with 18 seconds remaining cut the margin to three.

Ante Zizic had 12 points and 12 rebounds. Nance added 13 points with 11 rebounds. □

Lindblom scores, Stolarz leads Flyers past Rangers 1-0

By VIN A. CHERWOOD

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Anthony Stolarz was unbeatable during his first NHL game in six weeks.

Oskar Lindblom scored early, Stolarz stopped 38 shots for his second career shut-out and the Philadelphia Flyers held on to beat the New York Rangers 1-0 Tuesday night for their season-high fifth straight win.

Stolarz, out since Dec. 15 while recovering from a lower-body injury, got his first shutout since Dec. 11, 2016, at Detroit in his second NHL start.

"It's good to get the win," the 25-year-old said. "For me to come out there and kind of just hold the fort down for the team, and they did a great job, too.

I remember looking up at all the blocked shots. ... A credit to the boys in front of me."

Stolarz, who missed last season rehabbing from knee surgeries, was making his eighth start this season and the 12th of his career. "It felt great coming back," he said. "If I wasn't ready I wouldn't be back. ... Points are at a premium now, so we are going to want to go in every night, and we're going to have to play like it's a playoff game if we want to get back into (the race)."

The Flyers, who have won six of seven overall, have outscored opponents 20-10 during their winning streak. Philadelphia was coming off a 3-1 win at home over Winnipeg on Monday night



Philadelphia Flyers goaltender Anthony Stolarz (41) makes a save under his pads on a shot by New York Rangers center Vladislav Namestnikov (90) in the second period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

February 3rd - 2019

53

6:30pm

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in its first game back after an extended break for its bye and the All-Star Game. With the two wins in two days, the Flyers have pulled 10 points behind Pittsburgh for the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. However, coach Scott Gordon doesn't want his team looking too far ahead,

"We don't have to worry about eighth place right now," he said. "We have to worry about what's in front of us, the closest team in front of us. ... We get to a point where we can leapfrog them, then we worry about the next grouping of teams that are in front of us."

Alexandar Georgiev finished with 18 saves — including all seven Philadelphia shots he faced over the final two periods. New York, playing for the first time in 10 days, had won three straight.

The Rangers pulled Georgiev for an extra skater with just under two minutes remaining, but couldn't beat Stolarz.

"It's frustrating, obviously, when the game ends and you don't get a goal," New York coach David Quinn said. "There were opportunities and you have to capitalize on your chances and we didn't do that today."

The 6-foot-6 Stolarz made 13 saves in the first period,

12 in the second and 13 in the third.

"One of his strengths (is) to get across laterally," Gordon said. "With his size he's getting there before a lot of goalies. ... It was a tough challenge for our team (tonight) and it was a lot easier because of the effort (Stolarz) gave us."

Filip Chytil hit a goalpost from between the circles about eight minutes into the third, keeping the Rangers off the scoreboard. Stolarz then made a sprawling save in front on Brendan Smith's shot that deflected off a Flyers player with about two minutes to go.

Trailing 1-0, New York controlled play in the second period, outshooting Philadelphia 12-3.

The Rangers went on their second power play of the game with just under eight minutes remaining in the period and had several good chances. Stolarz stopped a deflection by Chris Kreider from the right side, then denied Kevin Hayes and Kreider on successive tries in front 30 seconds later.

The goalie also made a save on Vladislav Namestnikov's backhand in front with 6:09 remaining, then made a sensational smothering save on Kreider seconds later. □

Woodland looking to make more memories at the Phoenix Open

By JOHN MARSHALL

AP Sports Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

Gary Woodland walked through the tunnel to the Phoenix Open's 16th hole, the par 3 with an atmosphere more like a football game than a golf tournament. Waiting for him was a young lady in a purple shirt with some game of her own.

After hitting his tee shot, Woodland asked Amy, a Special Olympics athlete, if she wanted to take a crack at it. Absolutely, she said.

Amy made a good swing, but the ball caromed into the greenside bunker. Woodland asked Amy if she wanted to hit the bunker shot.

"I do. I've got this," she told the Phoenix Open's defending champion.

She sure did. With fans lining the triple-decker stadium that surrounds the hole, Amy thumped the ball onto the green with perfect form, got at read from her new PGA Tour friend and drained the putt. Woodland raised his arms in triumph as the already rowdy practice-round crowd roared.

"I've been blessed to do lot of cool things on the golf course, but that is by far the coolest thing I've ever experienced," Woodland said Wednesday. "She was phenomenal and then to step up in front of all the people and the crowd and everything and to hit the shots that she hit and made par, I never rooted so hard for somebody on a golf



In this Feb. 4, 2018, file photo, Gary Woodland smiles for photographers with the championship trophy after winning the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Associated Press

course. It was an emotional, emotional, really cool experience."

Woodland had one of his own a year ago at the Phoenix Open.

Winless for nearly five years on the PGA Tour and coming off a difficult summer, Woodland put on a display of power and finesse at TPC Scottsdale to beat Chez Reavie on the first hole of a playoff.

Waiting for him greenside was a surprise visitor: infant son Jaxson with wife Gabby.

Jaxson was born prematurely the previous June after a twin girl was lost in a miscarriage. Seeing him along with finishing off his first PGA Tour victory since

2013 brought a swell of emotions that still resonate as he prepares to defend his title.

"Obviously, I had a great week here last year," he said. "Great emotions being back, nice to see a lot of the same people."

Woodland returns to the desert as the defending champion at a tournament that's become the rowdiest place in golf.

More than a half-million fans stream into TPC Scottsdale each year in a spectacle that's become known as The Greatest Show in golf. The Phoenix Open drew nearly 720,000 fans throughout the week a year ago to set a PGA Tour record — more than 60,000

than the previous high — including more than 216,000 on Saturday.

Roughly 20,000 fans pack the 16th hole's stadium, many booze-emboldened to shout catcalls and bo errant shots.

This year's tournament may get as much attention for a man who won't hit a shot as the players braving the rowdiness.

Saturday's third round will be the final broadcast for NBC lead golf analyst Johnny Miller.

Miller announced in September that he's retiring to spend more time with his family, ending three decades of calling shots the way he sees them.

Miller shot a 63 to win the

1973 U.S. Open at Oakmont and earned a spot in the Hall of Fame with 25 career victories, but carved out a memorable second career by saying what he saw without worrying about what the players thought of him.

"He's always tried to be up front and present the game of golf in an insightful way for the viewers, whether it was educational about swing, helping people understand it or whether it was just being up front from a players' perspective as to what was going on," three-time Phoenix Open Phil Mickelson said. "I thought he's done an amazing job for the game of golf."

Mickelson will be making his record 30th career Phoenix Open start, a run that began when he played at nearby Arizona State, where he won three NCAA championships. Mickelson became an instant fan favorite at the Phoenix Open and has played every year except 1990. He won the tournament in 1996, 2005 and 2013, when he had a putt on the par-4 ninth hole lip out for what would have been a 59.

"Just amazing how many great memories I have when I come back and play here, how, what a great feeling I experience with the crowd and the many memories that I've had here," Mickelson said. Woodland's already had one at TPC Scottsdale this week with Amy. He's hoping for another come Sunday. □

Be it age or injury, Woods now begins year at a slower pace

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Tiger Woods wrapped up his week at Torrey Pines with a 67 to tie for 20th and said it was good to shake off some rust and see what needs work. It was his first competition in seven weeks, and only his second event since the Ryder Cup ended on Oct. 1.

Whether it's because of age or injury — both are relevant — keep in mind that for the first 12 years of his pro career, Woods never

finished outside the top 10 in his first event of the year, winning six times. The streak ended at the Match Play in 2009 after he sat out eight months recovering from reconstructive knee surgery. Dating to 2009, he has finished in the top 10 just twice in his first event of the year — a tie for fourth in the 2010 Masters and a tie for third in Abu Dhabi in 2012.

Even at his best, and when healthy, when Woods didn't win his first start of the year

it was written off in some corners as spring training. Everything was geared toward that first full week at Augusta National. In some respects, that remains true. It's about peaking four weeks every year, and Woods said that starts "months out."

But when does it become important to start seeing results?

"Just want to keep building, keep getting more crisp," Woods said. "It's hard to

peak for four major championships. It's not easy. I've only done it 14 times."

Most players would love to peak at majors half as much — if that many — in their careers. While conceding that "only" 14 sounds like a lot, Woods put it into context by referencing Jack Nicklaus winning "only" 18 times in 164 majors.

"It's not easy to do," said Woods, who has played 80 majors, six as an amateur. "It's hard to have mind,

body and soul come together at the same time. Luckily in this sport, we have four chances per year."

What has his attention this year is not getting ready for the Masters, but the quick turnaround for the next one, with the PGA Championship moving to May. Last year, for example, there were nine weeks between the Masters and the U.S. Open. Now, there are four weeks between the Masters and the PGA. □

Puig leaves L.A., warms to wintry new home with Reds

By JOE KAY

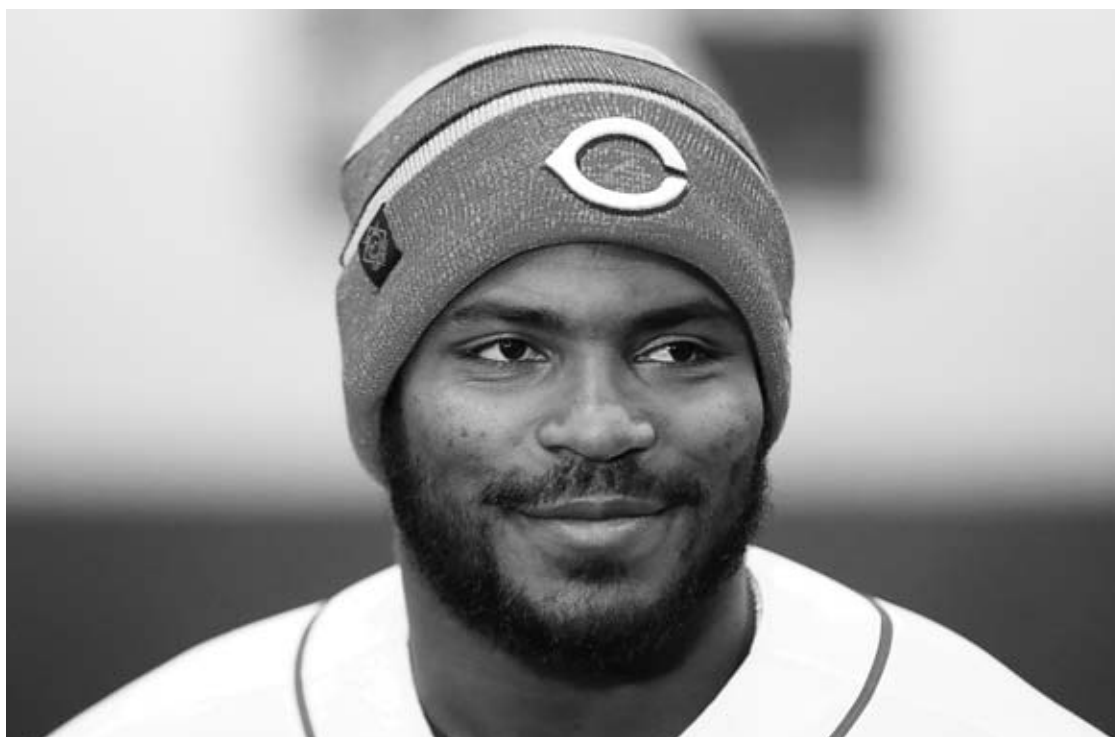
CINCINNATI (AP) — Yasiel Puig boarded a jet in Los Angeles, flew all night and arrived in his new home just before sunrise. The temperature was still falling toward zero, and the wind chill was enough to cause frostbite in a few minutes.

That first blast of cold as he left the plane was another reminder: You're not in LA anymore, Yasiel.

The former Dodgers outfielder who was part of a seven-player deal with Cincinnati in December decided to explore his new town Wednesday. He did just about every Cincinnati thing that a visitor could do on a below-freezing day.

Puig looked for a place to live, visited Great American Ball Park, and spent time with children at the Reds' baseball academy. He went to City Hall and met the mayor. One of the local chili parlors tweeted hello. During his visit to the new clubhouse, Puig got a Reds home jersey with No. 66 and his name on the back. Also, a red-and-gray stocking cap that sure came in handy under the conditions, though he insisted that 20-below wind chill wasn't intimidating.

"It's not that cold," he said in a tone that had less conviction than his words. "It's



Cincinnati Reds Yasiel Puig takes questions from reporters during a media availability at the P&G MLB Cincinnati Reds Youth Academy, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

all in your head. I'll be fine. It's not going to be like that in the season."

Reds fans are hoping Puig and a cadre of newcomers can make this season one worth following, finally.

After four straight rebuilding seasons with at least 94 losses — and significant attendance drops — the Reds have overhauled their rotation and lineup in a series of trades giving them an entirely different look for at least one year.

The Reds got Puig, left-handed starter Alex Wood

and outfielder Matt Kemp from the Dodgers in December. Puig and Kemp are free agents after this season, so Cincinnati could be just a one-year stand for them.

For Puig, it's a chance to solidify his free agent resume in a smaller ballpark and a much smaller city that's been waiting for a reason to be excited.

LA to Cincy? Dodger Dogs for three-way chili? How's that going to work?

"I've been playing in a small city, a small country, almost

all my life," said Puig, who grew up in Cuba.

He hasn't yet met most of his new teammates — that will happen in a few weeks in Goodyear, Arizona — but he's part of a text chain with 10-15 players who stay in touch daily. The most familiar person on the team is batting coach Turner Ward, who left the Dodgers after last season to join manager David Bell's staff.

Ward helped Puig significantly in LA, and the outfielder showed his appreciation by planting a kiss

on his cheek after a home run. Puig also developed a habit of licking his bat when he feels he needs good luck. He plans to continue the smooching and showing his personality in his new town.

"I was born like that," he said. "No matter where I play, no matter what's the city, I do that."

The Reds' offseason makeover involves more than Puig and a new coaching staff. They also traded with the Nationals for starter Tanner Roark and with the Yankees for starter Sonny Gray, giving him an additional three years on his contract that added \$30.5 million in guaranteed money from 2020-22.

It's unclear how far they can rise in the tough NL Central, where they've been at the bottom for years. Puig's arrival gives them a fresh face that fans already know from afar.

Puig has already had one memorable moment in Cincinnati. During a Dodgers visit in 2014, he went to the zoo and got a snake draped over his shoulders, leaving him with a look of dread that made for a memorable photo. Puig plans to visit the zoo again. "But the snake thing — that's not going to happen for myself," he said. □

New York museum exhibit marks Jackie Robinson centennial

By RONALD BLUM

NEW YORK (AP) — As the 100th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's birth approached, Sharon Robinson is sure her father would have a lot to say about the current political climate in the United States if he were still alive.

"I know he would be outraged," she said.

Jackie Robinson, who died at age 53 in 1972, would have turned 100 on Thursday. He broke Major League Baseball's color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947, and the centennial of his birth marks the opening of an exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York titled "In the Dugout with Jackie

Robinson: An Intimate Portrait of a Baseball Legend."

It features memorabilia and 32 photographs originally shot for Look magazine, plus footage of Robinson hitting grounders to his son in the backyard of the family house in Stamford, Connecticut. Many of the photos shot by Frank Bauman and Kenneth Eide from 1949 and 1953 had not been on public view previously.

Rachel Robinson, the ballplayer's wife, planned to attend the opening, still a force at age 96. The celebration and baseball's annual Jackie Robinson Day on April 15 will focus attention on the Jackie Robinson Museum in the SoHo sec-

tion of Manhattan, scheduled to open in December. Della Britton Baeza, CEO of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, said \$28 million has been raised toward a \$42 million goal — matching Robinson's uniform number, which was retired throughout the major leagues in 1997. The money raised covers construction costs, and an additional \$4 million is needed for marketing and staff. The overall goal includes \$10 million for an endowment, she said.

"In this day and age in this climate of our country, we really are going to take on this issue of discussing race relations," Britton Baeza said. "What better place than a place that pays trib-

ute to one of the great integrationists of the last century? So we're going to roll up our sleeves. We will do it from a position of goodwill and from a position of starting with the facts, if you will, but we're going to take these things on and talk about activism in sports."

The exhibit, which runs until Sept. 15, is a partnership between the Museum of the City of New York and the foundation, and some of the memorabilia will wind up at the Jackie Robinson Museum.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has been a major backer of the Jackie Robinson Foundation and the museum, and he will be honored at the founda-

tion's annual awards dinner on March 4 along with businessman Maverick Carter and musician Kristopher Bowers.

"The centennial of his birth is an opportunity for MLB to recognize the historical significance of Jackie Robinson and to continue to teach younger people the impact he had on baseball and society," Manfred said. Sharon Robinson, MLB's education programming consultant, said today's players need to have greater knowledge of the foundation's efforts. So there's no better time to look back into history and see how much has changed but how much work still needs to be done. □



Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic returns the ball to Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy-2019 tennis tournament match in St. Petersburg, Russia, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019.

Associated Press

Petra Kvitova beats Azarenka in 2 sets in St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)

— Australian Open finalist Petra Kvitova won eight straight games to take control of the match before needing a tiebreaker to finally beat Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 7-6 (3) on Wednesday in the second round of the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy.

Kvitova, playing her opening match after a first-round bye, went from trailing 2-1 in the first set to a 3-0 lead in the second. But she double-faulted on match point at 5-1 to let Azarenka back into the match.

In the quarterfinals, Kvitova will face eighth-seeded Donna Vekic, who beat lucky loser Veronika Kuder-

metova 6-4, 6-3.

Maria Sharapova withdrew from the tournament with a right shoulder injury, hours before she was to play Daria Kasatkina in the second round. Sharapova had beaten Australia's Daria Gavrilova in the first round Monday and was aiming to win a WTA event in her native Russia for the first time.

"I tried to do everything to be ready to play this week but my right shoulder is still bothering me," she said on the tournament website. "In the next few days I'll meet my medical team to evaluate the situation and I'm looking forward to getting back into competition as soon as possible. □

Lindsey Vonn on ski roster for worlds, paves way for possible return

By The Associated Press

Lindsey Vonn was named to the U.S. ski team roster for the world championships, paving the way for a possible return to the starting gate despite her aching knees.

Vonn and Mikaela Shiffrin highlight the 13-athlete American squad for the event that begins next week in Are, Sweden.

The 34-year-old Vonn was planning to step away in December. But the all-time winningest female World Cup racer contemplated retiring effective immediately after struggling to finish a super-G in Italy earlier this month because of the severe pain in both knees. Vonn later announced on social media the pain was due to a nerve issue. □

Continued from Page 17

Penske's transporter was stacked with thermal underwear — "I've got my ski stuff here," he said — heavy water resistant coats and black beanies branded with the Penske mark. The pit stand had been renovated to create additional space so Penske didn't have to sit all night, a lesson learned from last year's race, and overhead heaters had been installed.

When the poor weather finally hit the speedway, the crew zipped clear flaps and enclosed the pit stand to escape the wind and torrential rain.

A month shy of his 82nd birthday, in the heaviest rain many racing veterans had ever seen, Penske pulled his beanie down low and hunkered down for an all-nighter.

"He doesn't even want to sit down, he's just standing there and it's crazy," said Juan Pablo Montoya, winner of the 16th of Penske's record 17 Indianapolis 500 victories. "That's why he's the big man and we are not."

His reasoning? Should he step away even briefly and one of his two cars had some sort of problem, Penske wanted to be present for problem-solving and strategic decisions.

"I could never do that, I could never stay up," said Penske driver Ricky Taylor, who noted after the final practice session before the Rolex that Penske had noticed an irregularity on the track and found Taylor to show him where to avoid.

Helio Castroneves, winner of three Indy 500s for Penske, wasn't at all surprised to see his boss there for the long haul.

"When you are passionate about racing like Roger, he has no reason not to be here for all of it," Castroneves said. "And three-four hours is all he needs to charge his battery. He has a very quick charger."

Penske had a sensible rebuttal for Castroneves' claim that the boss rarely sleeps.

"Guess it all depends on if it is something worth staying awake for," he said.

Next up is Penske's Friday night induction into the



In this Jan. 26, 2019, file photo, Penske Acura team owner Roger Penske monitors his Acura DPi cars on the track from his pit stall at the IMSA 24-hour race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

NASCAR Hall of Fame's 10th class, which was one of the most competitive elections in years. Jeff Gordon is the headliner, along with Davey Allison and Alan Kulwicki, drivers both killed in aviation accidents at the prime of their careers. Team owners Penske and Jack Roush, a pair of Detroit fixtures who intertwined their many business interests with the automotive industry and motorsports, were elected together.

"Listen I'm just glad they let guys in from the North," Penske joked about his induction with Roush. Both team owners had been on the ballot several years before they were voted in last May, shortly before Will Power won Penske another Indy 500 title.

"For us going in with Jack, a Michigan guy like we are, a business owner like we are, it's a big honor for the family, all the people before us who helped us open the doors, and I was surprised when I was picked. You never know when is the right time to go in — is it because of your age? What's the right time?"

Penske was elected based on his entire body of work, even though this Hall of Fame is specific to NASCAR. The voting was done five days before the biggest Sunday in racing of the year. Penske started his day with four Chevrolets racing at Indianapolis, where Power won, then the action resumed in North Carolina at the Coca-Cola

600 with three Penske Fords and a fourth affiliated car in the field.

The election was one part of a season in which Penske won both the IndyCar races at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the NASCAR race at the Brickyard, the organization's 500th overall victory and NASCAR's cup title. Penske's long-awaited return to sports car racing was completed last season with a two-car Acura effort, and Scott McLaughlin won the Virgin Australia Supercars title one week after Joey Logano's surprise Cup championship.

Across all his platforms, it was the most consistent season for Penske, who in NASCAR now has two Cup titles and two Daytona 500 victories.

"It's our 52nd year in racing and I guess it was time to make it all happen," Penske said. "It was the culmination of all our hard work, and we've had great seasons and maybe just don't get all the PR buzz down in NASCAR. Our guys have stayed under the radar, I guess except when our drivers get into a mess, but the NASCAR championship was really, really important that I get that done the year I go into the Hall because that validates and gives the team and me validation to be in the Hall." Penske leads by example with standards that require immaculate, crease-free uniforms and a commitment to excellence and professionalism. □

Apple opens new chapter amid weakening iPhone demand

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Apple hoped to offset slowing demand for iPhones by raising the prices of its most important product, but that strategy seems to have backfired after sales sagged during the holiday shopping season.

Results released Tuesday revealed the magnitude of the iPhone slump — a 15 percent drop in revenue from the previous year. That decline in Apple's most profitable product caused Apple's total earnings for the October-December



This Oct. 22, 2018, file photo shows the iPhone XS, from left, iPhone XR, and the iPhone XS Max in New York.

Associated Press

quarter to dip slightly to \$20 billion.

Now, CEO Tim Cook is grappling with his toughest challenge since replacing co-founder Steve Jobs 7 ½ years ago. Even as he tries to boost iPhone sales, Cook also must prove that Apple can still thrive even if demand doesn't rebound.

It figures to be an uphill battle, given Apple's stock has lost one-third of its value in less than four months, erasing about \$370 billion in shareholder wealth. Cook rattled Wall Street in early January by disclosing the company had missed its own revenue projections for the first time in 15 years. The last time that happened, the iPod was just beginning to transform Apple.

"This is the defining moment for Cook," said Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives. "He has lost some credibility on Wall Street, so now he will have to do some handholding as the company enters this next chapter."

The results for the October-December period were slightly above the expectations analysts lowered after Cook's Jan. 2 warning. Besides the profit decline, Apple's revenue fell 5 percent from the prior year to \$84 billion.

It marked the first time in more than two years that Apple's quarterly revenue has dropped from the past year. The erosion was caused by the decline of the iPhone, whose sales plunged to \$52 billion, down by more than \$9 billion from the previous year. The past quarter's letdown intensified the focus on Apple's forecast for the opening three months of the year as investors try to get a better grasp on iPhone sales until the next models are released in autumn.

Apple predicted its revenue for the January-March period will range from \$55 billion to \$59 billion. Analysts surveyed by FactSet had been anticipating revenue of about \$59 billion.

Investors liked what they

read and heard, helping Apple's stock recoup some of their recent losses. The stock gained nearly 6 percent to \$163.50 in extended trading after the report came out.

"We wouldn't change our position with anyone's," Cook reassured analysts during a conference call reviewing the past quarter and the upcoming months. The company didn't forecast how many iPhones it will sell, something Apple has done since the product first hit the market in 2007 and transformed society, as well as technology.

Apple is no longer disclosing how many iPhones it shipped after the quarter is completed, a change that Cook announced in November. That unexpected move raised suspicions that Apple was trying to conceal a forthcoming slump in iPhone sales — fears that were realized during the holiday season.

Cook traces most of Apple's iPhone problems to a weakening economy in

China, the company's second biggest market behind the U.S. The company is also facing tougher competition in China, where home-grown companies such as Huawei and Xiaomi have been winning over consumers in that country with smartphones that have many of the same features as iPhones at lower prices. Although a trade war started by President Donald Trump last year has hurt China and potentially caused some consumers there to boycott U.S. products, many analysts believe the iPhone's malaise stems from other issues too.

Among them are higher prices — Apple's most expensive iPhone now costs \$1,350 — for models that aren't that much better than the previous generation, giving consumers little incentive to stop using the device they already own until it wears out. Apple also gave old iPhones new life last by offering to replace aging batteries for \$29, a 70 percent discount.

"The upgrade cycle has extended, there is no doubt about that," Cook conceded.

Apple is banking that investors will realize the company can still reap huge profits by selling various services on the 1.4 billion devices running on its software.

That's one reason why Cook has been touting the robust growth of Apple's division that collects commissions from paid apps, processes payments, and sells hardware warranty plans and music streaming subscriptions. Apple Music now has more than 50 million subscribers, second to Spotify's 87 million streaming subscribers through September.

Apple is also preparing to launch a video streaming service to compete against Netflix, though Cook said he wasn't ready to provide details Tuesday.

The company's services revenue in the past quarter climbed 19 percent from the prior year to \$10.9 billion — more than any other category besides the iPhone. □

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Penthouse condo w/ jacuzzi
& private roof top patio



It's not too late to set money resolutions for 2019

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
Associated Press

New Year's Day has come and gone and perhaps your resolve to stick to your resolutions has disappeared by now as well. If so, don't despair — it's not too late to set and achieve some money goals.

WHY GOALS MATTER

It is important to use goals to help achieve big plans. For example, you may want to retire comfortably or own a house one day. But how do you do that? By setting smaller, achievable goals to get you down that path.

"It's planning," said Michael Eisenberg, CPA, financial planner and member of a financial literacy commission for the American institute of CPAs. "Setting goals is equal to planning. When you have a goal you can see it and take steps toward it."

And when it comes to something as important and long-term as your financial security, goals are extremely important. Once you write down a specific goal it begins to become more real. And if you take action on it and see incremental success, it can often provide the positive feedback loop that helps keep people going.

"It's interesting to watch human behavior," Eisenberg said. "When (clients) start to set some money away and see it grow they start to (think) 'wow' and continue to do it."

WHY NOW?

New Year's has passed but a recent study from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania found that other days that have importance to individuals can serve as fresh starts of sorts as well.

The study found that certain



In this Sept. 21, 2016, a man is silhouetted against the wall illuminated by the late afternoon sunlight as he walks through the Nadine and Ed Carson Amphitheater at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"landmark" days — such as a birthday, the start of a new week or beginning of a new school term — can jump start new habits. The exact day doesn't matter as much as the fact it is embraced by an individual. That's because when

people buy into these landmarks, they interrupt the traditional decision-making process, helping people focus on their high-level goals rather than the mundane details of daily life. Consider a stop for coffee in the morning. Where

someone might normally decide if they are going to stop based on a desire for coffee or how long the line is, this thinking may shift if someone has embraced a bigger goal, said Wharton researcher Katherine Milkman. The thinking may shift to "Is this coffee helping my ultimate goal of saving money?"

Milkman, who specializes in behavior change and decision making, also notes that people should not beat themselves up if they have tried and failed before.

"Change is hard," she said. "We have all tried these things before and we all need a kick in the butt to try again."

HOW TO CRAFT A GOAL

It is important to pick a goal that really matters to you. Once you have a goal, make sure it is achievable.

□

Investors cautious ahead of Fed rate decision

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the Federal Reserve's monetary policy meeting

Stock markets are up slightly ahead of the U.S. Federal Reserve's interest rate announcement and the subsequent news conference by Chairman Jerome Powell.

Investors expect the central bank to keep its rates

on hold but will be looking for Powell to confirm that any further hikes will be gradual. Concerns about the pace of rate increases, which can make borrowing more expensive and cool off economic growth, had last year sent stock markets into a tailspin.

Dow and S&P 500 futures are both up 0.3 percent ahead of Wall Street's open later Wednesday. Asian in-

dexes mostly closed higher and European markets are largely rising. France's CAC 40 is up 0.5 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 is 0.8 percent higher, though Germany's DAX is down 0.2 percent.

With the Federal Reserve considered sure to leave interest rates unchanged Wednesday, investors will be hoping to hear Chairman Jerome Powell sound a reassuring theme that

a pause in the Fed's rate hikes could last a while.

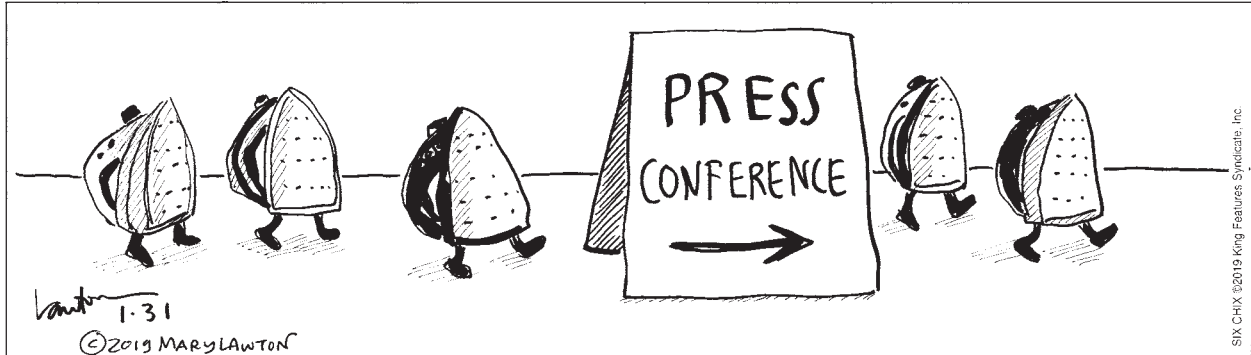
Powell has been invoking the word "patient" to describe the Fed's latest approach to rates increases. It's a word he adopted this month after the Fed's string of four rate hikes last year had helped send the stock market into a tailspin over fear that the central bank might be tightening credit too aggressively.

The Fed will issue Wednesday a policy statement outlining its views on the state of the economy and likely announcing that it will leave its benchmark rate unchanged. Powell will then give a news conference, beginning a policy of speaking with reporters after each of the Fed's eight meetings every year, rather than only four times a year. □

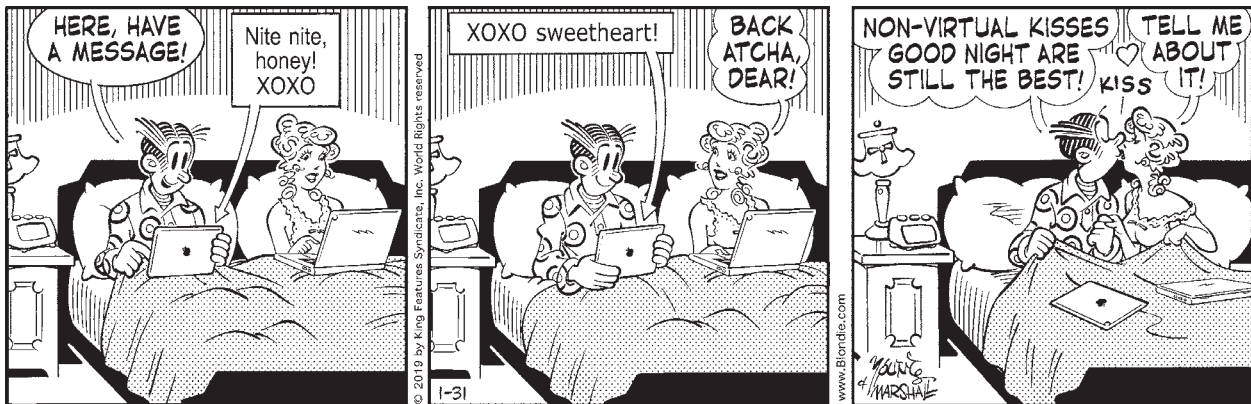
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1								8
	9	6					5	
		8		7		4	3	
			3		9			
		2				6		
			8		1			
	8	3		5		7		
	7					8	1	
5								9

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

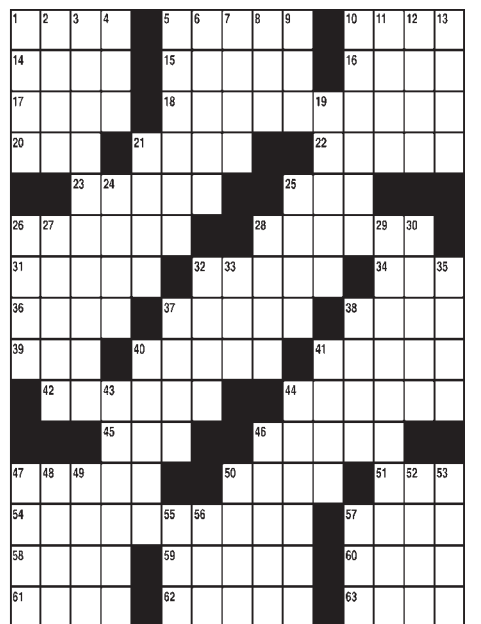
3	8	7	9	2	4	1	6	5
5	9	6	7	3	1	2	4	8
1	4	2	8	6	5	7	9	3
7	6	8	1	5	3	4	2	9
9	5	4	6	7	2	3	8	1
2	1	3	4	9	8	5	7	6
8	3	1	2	4	9	6	5	7
4	7	5	3	8	6	9	1	2
6	2	9	5	1	7	8	3	4

ACROSS

- 1 ___ away;
astonish
5 Nagging pains
10 30-day month;
abbr.
14 Thick cord
15 Hang limply
16 Barber's focus
17 Matured
18 Britain's charter
of rights
20 Put on, as
clothing
21 Convulsions
22 Ease, as
another's fears
23 Terre __, IN
25 To and
26 Sunglasses
28 Small
earthquake
31 Erie or Panama
32 Adamant refusal
34 Pea casing
36 Opie's pa
37 Tooth problem
38 Incite
39 Part of a sock
40 Hand protectors
41 Aneurysm site,
often
42 Loafers
44 Firstborn
45 Bullring shout
46 Dads
47 Fat-shunner of
nursery rhyme
50 Suffix for care or
hair
51 Eva, to Zsa Zsa
54 Downtown
thoroughfare
57 Heap
58 ___ a year;
annually
59 Use a loom
60 Wicked
61 Reverse or
neutral, e.g.
62 Stranger
63 Banana casing

DOWN

- 1 Actor Pitt
2 Business symbol
3 Generous
4 Marry
5 Fesses up
6 Wooden box
7 Swine
8 Geologic period
9 Hot tub
10 "Peace!"
11 ___ Grey tea
12 Gyro bread
13 Cafeteria
patron's item
19 Drew, for one
21 Gas or coal
24 "Queen for ___" of
old TV
25 Ravel
26 "Get lost!"
27 Asian capital city
28 ___ the
night before
Christmas...
29 Tyrannical;
heavy-handed
30 Overwhelming
defeats
32 NBA team
33 Fall month: abbr.
35 "Phooey!"
37 Critical; urgent



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/31/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

O	F	A		A	S	T	A	R		J	U	T	S	
P	I	N	S		C	H	I	M	E		O	G	R	E
T	R	O	T		C	A	N	E	S		S	L	E	W
	E	X	U	B	E	R	A	N	T		E	Y	E	S
			D	O	S	E		L	I	P				
L	A	P	E	L	S		O	V	E	R	H	E	A	T
I	D	O	N	T		B	O	I	S	E		D	D	E
M	E	L	T		S	I	Z	E	S		E	D	A	M
E	L	K		A	C	T	E	D		P	R	I	M	P
S	E	A	R	C	H	E	D		P	U	R	E	S	T
			A	D	E			M	A	M				
C	H	I	C		D	U	D	E	R	A	N	C	H	
R	I	C	E		U	N	I	T	E		D	O	O	M
O	V	E	R		L	I	K	E	N		S	L	U	M
W	E	D	S		E	V	E	R	T		A	R	E	

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1/31/19

- 38 Malt shop order
40 Patty __; lunch
orders
41 European range
43 Car to use
temporarily
44 Spring holiday
46 Irritate
47 Air pollution
48 Window glass
49 Costa __
50 Go before others
52 Nástase with a
racket
53 Broker's advice
55 Siesta hour
56 Blushing
57 Energy

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Divi Village

1 BR WK # 8 & 9
21 & 25 weeks remain
\$9000 each
Divi links Golf
1 BR WK# 8 & 9
27 weeks remain
\$9000 each

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK # 6
2 sd Floor Front Villas
28 weeks remain \$12,500
Studio WK # 7 \$7500
11 th Floor 17 week remain
1 BR WK # 8 \$16,000
building 6 4th floor
29 weeks remain

Renaissance Suites

1 BR WK # 9 \$9000
4th Floor Harbor view
1 BR WK # 11 \$8000
3rd Floor Garden view
1 BR Wk # 12 \$9000
3rd floor pool/ocean view
1 BR DLX Wk 13&14 \$9000
each
5th floor ocean front

Tropicana Resort

1 BR WK # 5,6,7,8
Ground floor \$7000 each
1 BR WK 7 & 8 \$7000 each
Dutch Village
1 BR WK 8 \$8500
24 weeks remain

For Rent

Aruba Divi Phoenix
1 BR WK # 8 \$2000
23 February 2 March 2019
Divi Links Golf
Studio WK #8 \$1500
23 February 2 March 2019

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Catiri

3 Bedroom , 2 Bath
10 Min drive to beach
Certral located \$250 K
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4 Bedroom , 3 Bath
Swimming pool \$350K

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Platinum
1 BR Ocean View \$10,000
2 BR Ocean View \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$24,000
Aruba Divi Phoenix
1 br wk 1 and 2
Rm 644 33 weeks remain
\$36,000 both

Call:630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Links Golf

Studio WK 2
24 weeks remain \$ 7500
1 BR WK # 3
24 weeks remain \$ 8500
2 BR WK # 3
28 weeks remain \$ 25,000

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 1
25 weeks remain \$8000
1 BR WK # 1 and 2
32 weeks remain \$ 9000 each
Studio wk # 5 and 6
25 and 30 Weeks remain \$
17,000 Both

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 4 and 5
25 and 30 weeks remain \$ 9000
each
1 BR WK # 4
20 weeks remain \$9000

Divi Village

Studio WK # 6
22 weeks remain \$ 8000
The Mill Resorts and Suites
1 br wk # 4 \$7000

Marriott Surf Club

2 BR Garden Vie w \$14,000
2 BR Ocean View \$ 15,000
2 BR Ocean Side \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27,000
3 BR Ocean View \$26,000

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Fri/Fri \$3,900
Week 13 Two Bed Unit #4552H
Fri/Fri \$4,900
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In US sales.cpv@hotmail.com
or cell 978 530 6077
210463

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Wk 2/1113 - (\$16,000)
Wks 5 & 6/1315 (\$18,000/wk)
Wks 5 & 6/1521 (\$20,000/wk)
Wk 7/1308 (\$18,000)
Wks 7 & 8/1408 (\$18,000)
Wk 8/1113 (\$17,000)
Wk 8/1409 (\$17,000)
CDMOwner@gmail.com
U.S. (860) 649-9639
210601

FOR SALE

Paradise Beach Villas wk. 3

Unit # 222 in Phase 2, 1 BR,
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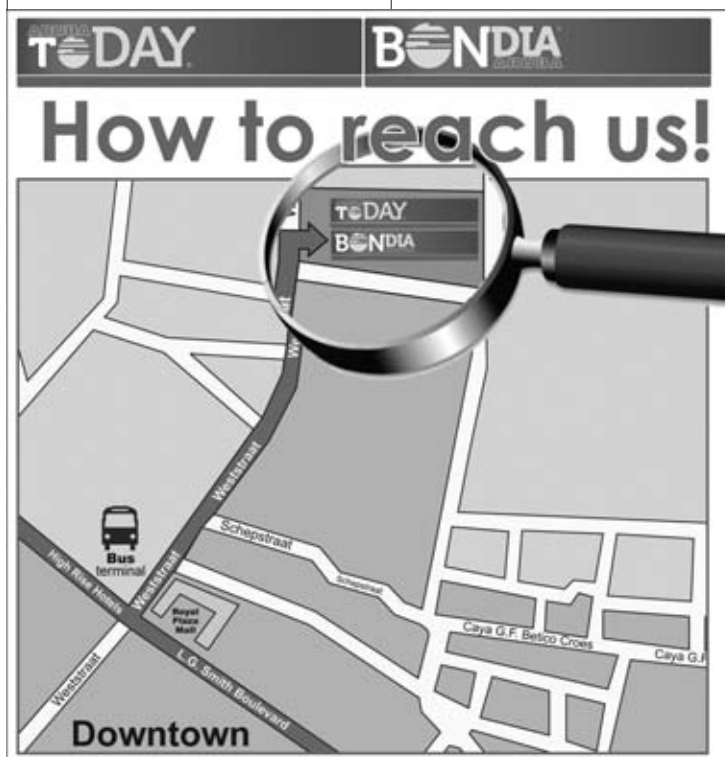
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Food industry sway over public health gets new scrutiny

By CANDICE CHOI

AP Food & Health Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The tweet from a group that finances development in Latin America was direct: Sodas do not offer beauty or joy, just a lot of sugar. There was one problem for the organization. Coca-Cola was a funder. The Inter-American Development Bank's management told Coke it hadn't been aware of the tweet, and subsequently invited the company to write a blog post explaining how the beverage giant was helping address obesity, according to an email by a Coke executive obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request.

The exchange provides another glimpse of the food industry's pull in shaping messages about its products. With obesity becoming a more pressing global problem, two reports in science journals are calling for policies that limit industry influence and reviving debate about what role food companies should play in public health efforts. In the medical journal *Lancet*, a report says skepticism about the motives of ultra-processed food makers is justified, noting how sugary drink manufacturers have fought government efforts to reduce soda consumption. The report says reducing industry influence in policy development will help governments address the intertwined problems



In this Friday, Dec. 9, 2016 file photo, the Coca-Cola logo appears above the post where it trades on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

of obesity, malnutrition and climate change.

A separate report in *Milbank Quarterly* depicts Coke's ties with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, relying partly on previously published emails obtained through records requests. In one exchange, a CDC official tells a Coke executive that her colleague is interested in working at the beverage company and passes along her resume. A CDC representative said the agency doesn't comment on personnel matters, but noted its resources on ethical issues for employees.

The *Milbank* report says such exchanges underscore the need for greater

transparency and conflict-of-interest guidelines at organizations involved in public health. It says there's still relatively little known about the extent of the food industry's influence, but that there is growing understanding of such dynamics.

Gary Ruskin, one of the report's authors, said the increased awareness is partly the result of "the sheer enormity of the obesity epidemic." "We're just starting to grapple with it in a serious way," said Ruskin, who is also co-founder of U.S. Right to Know, an advocacy group funded by the Organic Consumers Association and others.

Ruskin said Coke in particu-

lar has been the subject of many recent revelations because of the company's unusually far-reaching ties into regulatory and scientific matters. Earlier this month, research by a Harvard scholar traced how a group founded by a former Coke executive helped shape China's efforts to keep obesity in check.

Still, Coke is far from alone. Many other food companies fund studies that are favorable to their products and become part of scientific literature. And last year, the University of California, San Francisco launched an archive of food industry documents for researchers, including records detailing the sugar industry's role in shaping nutrition research.

Yoni Freedhoff, who teaches family medicine at the University of Ottawa, said the food industry's public pledges on health matters should be viewed warily given its financial drivers.

"It gives smoke and cover for the industry to try and pretend, 'Hey, we're on your team'," Freedhoff said. Not everyone thinks all industry ties should be dismissed. Bill Dietz, an author of the *Lancet* report and a researcher at George Washington University, cited the Partnership for a Healthier America's works with food companies on public health commitments as a worthwhile effort.

"My worry is that this has become such a fraught issue that any relationship with industry is dismissed," said Dietz, who is on the board of Partnership for a Healthier America.

As for the tweet by the Inter-American Development Bank, a representative for the bank said the message was deleted because it included an image with brand names in violation of its policies. The representative said Coke's post was published on the bank's blog for outreach and partners, and that the institution has continued to promote discussion about the health implications of sugar consumption.

In a statement, Atlanta-based Coca-Cola said it has been working on being more transparent and to better understand how it can help address obesity. □

Brown U criticized for using live pigs in medical training

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — An advocacy group has asked federal regulators to investigate Brown University's medical school, arguing it is violating the law by using live pigs for training in emergency medicine.

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

on Tuesday asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to investigate animal use at the Warren Alpert Medical School at the Ivy League university.

Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital partner for biomedical research, teaching and clinical programs. They said in a joint statement Wednesday that the hospital abides by all federal regulations and follows strict protocols for

using animals. This includes advanced trauma life support training in the emergency medicine residency program affiliated with Brown's medical school, they said.

The committee advocates for eliminating the use of live animals in any medical training and promotes the use of human-body simulators instead.

Proponents of animal research argue it is crucial to scientific breakthroughs and for furthering medical

science. Brown and Rhode Island Hospital say they are committed to ensuring the highest ethical standards for the responsible use of animals and employ alternatives to animals when doing so will support scientific and academic goals. Many emergency medicine residency programs in the United States and Canada use only human-based training methods, such as medical simulation or cadavers, according to the committee. □



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Karlie Kloss part of 'Project Runway' twists in Bravo return

By LYNN ELBER

BETH HARRIS

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —

A roundup of news from the Television Critics Association winter meeting, at which TV networks and streaming services are presenting details on upcoming programs.

DESIGNING WITH A TWIST

"Project Runway" is going home, back to its original network with several new twists.

The biggest change is new host and executive producer Karlie Kloss, who takes over from the departed duo of Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn when the show returns to Bravo on March 14. The model grew up in St. Louis watching the original version.

Christian Siriano, who won season four, mentors the aspiring designers. Designer Brandon Maxwell, Elaine Welteroth and original cast member Nina Garcia serve as judges.

The winning designer will receive \$250,000 — a boost from \$100,000.

After 16 seasons with the franchise, Klum and Gunn jumped to Amazon to start a rival show. Before leaving, Klum suggested Siriano as Gunn's successor. Coincidentally, producers were already talking to the designer, who has sustained a successful 10-year career since his breakout on the show.

Siriano noted the biggest



Karlie Kloss speaks as Christian Siriano looks on in Bravo's "Project Runway" panel during the NBCUniversal TCA Winter Press Tour on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

difference between him and Gunn is that Gunn wasn't a designer; he was on the faculty at Parsons The New School of Design.

"When the designers have a red carpet challenge, I can actually give them real feedback because I just dressed people at the Golden Globes the week before," Siriano said. "I'm giving them almost, like, real fashion industry feedback. And I think that it can, hopefully, only help them."

Models on the show will be diverse in their ethnicity and size ranges.

LA REINA AND EL CHAPO

Kate del Castillo said she's relieved she wasn't called to testify in the New York trial of Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

But she doesn't regret arranging a 2015 meeting between Guzman and Sean Penn, although the fallout kept her from visiting and working in Mexico for more than three years, the actress said.

She filmed the upcoming Telemundo sequel to her 2011 telenovela "La Reina del Sur" outside of the coun-

try, with a double shooting her scenes in Mexico, she said Tuesday.

The actress said she was finally able to return last Christmas but had an unsettling experience upon arrival, when use of her Mexican passport triggered an alert. Del Castillo, an American citizen, said she could have presented her U.S. passport for entry but insisted on using the document from her native country.

"It shocked me," she said, when she was detained for about 20 minutes as officials scurried around. She recalled thinking, "Oh my

God, they're going to arrest me right now or I'm going to be sent back to the United States.'"

In 2017, del Castillo filed a human rights complaint alleging she was unable to travel to Mexico to work because her communications with Guzman were under investigation.

Guzman is on trial on drug and murder conspiracy charges that his lawyers say are fabricated.

Del Castillo said work has prevented her from following the proceedings closely and she is "happy" not to be involved

METOO BRINGS ON-SET CHANGES

Lorraine Toussaint welcomed the idea of intimacy coaches on television and film sets, even if the actress wasn't quite sure what the job entails.

Informed that such coaches help stage scenes of physical closeness that are respectful to the actors, the 58-year-old star of NBC's upcoming series "The Village" told the TV critics' meeting Tuesday that she was forced to be her own advocate when no one else was around.

"I've been a bit of a Nazi about making sure that it's a closed set, and that includes even sound," Toussaint said. "It is highly choreographed. It is highly rehearsed. And then everyone has to go away." □

Georgia O'Keeffe Museum buys her 'Ritz Tower' painting

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum has purchased the American artist's "Ritz Tower" painting, a rare work of her take on a New York skyscraper, the museum announced this week.

Officials at the Santa Fe, New Mexico, museum said it bought the 1928 piece in October from a private collector but declined to say how much it cost.

Last year, the museum sold three of the artist's lesser works for \$19.5 million to add to its acquisition fund. The slender painting is one of O'Keeffe's rare depic-

tions of skyscrapers in New York City.

Throughout the 1920s, O'Keeffe lived in New York with her husband, photographer Alfred Stieglitz.

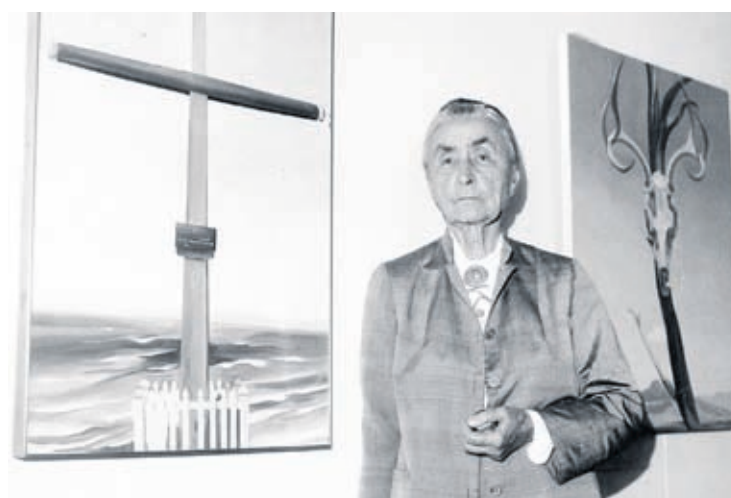
O'Keeffe created the image after her male peers discouraged her from painting New York subjects. "The men decided they didn't want me to paint New York...They told me to 'leave New York to the men.' I was furious!" O'Keeffe said years later.

Museum curator Ariel Plotek said the work fills a hole in its collection since O'Keeffe painted few New

York skyscraper scenes.

"It is a dynamic, glamorous portrayal," Plotek said. "O'Keeffe effectively rendered the spirit of the city by making it a night scene teeming with energy. She used the bright punches of electric light, the soaring architecture, and the glow of the moon to great effect." Ritz Tower will be on view in the museum's galleries beginning on March 1.

Wisconsin-born O'Keeffe, known for her modernist and surreal images of the American Southwest, lived and painted for decades in Abiquiu, New Mexico. □



In this Oct. 8, 1970 file photo, Georgia O'Keeffe stands next to her oil paintings during a press review of 121 paintings, watercolors, and drawings on exhibit at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

Associated Press

Non-live Fox 'Rent' is 'No day but yesterday'

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox's live broadcast of the rock musical "Rent" had a chance to show off the flexibility and work ethic of Broadway in the face of a setback — and completely blew it. The musical about people living and dying in poverty with AIDS was unable to overcome a simple foot injury to one of its stars, scrapping the idea of going live and relying on prerecorded footage.

Producers promised the show would go on but it really didn't. The majority of the dress rehearsal from the night before was broadcast instead of really live. This is the very opposite of the show's ethic "no day but today."

The creators were unable to respond to Brennin Hunt's broken foot, even though examples from Broadway abound, including Andy Karl finishing a preview of "Groundhog Day" with the use of a cane in 2017 after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament. He was onstage when the show officially opened just 72 hours later. The decision Sunday left



This image released by Fox shows the cast of "Rent," Brandon Victor Dixon as Tom Collins, Valentina as Angel Dumont Schunard, Jordan Fisher as Mark Cohen, Mario as Benjamin Coffin III, Kiersey Clemons as Joanne Jefferson, Vanessa Hudgens as Maureen Johnson, Brennin Hunt as Roger Davis and Tinashe as Mimi Marquez, airing Sunday, Jan. 27 on Fox.

Associated Press

the "Rent" cast marooned on Stage 16 on the Fox lot in Los Angeles until the finale, a disastrous idea that rightfully incensed anyone who loves live theater. To be honest, even in rehearsal, the show lacked sustained

sparks, despite an overenthusiastic audience. The rock musical, by Jonathan Larson and inspired by the Giacomo Puccini opera "La Boheme," celebrates survival among the artists and homeless of

New York's East Village in the early 1990s. Jason Sherwood's sets were messy, scaffolding-heavy spaces with little beauty, except the lovely Christmas tree made of recycled materials. Realistic snow fell, but

the musical's gritty language was excised.

The show shared DNA with the original 1996 Broadway production, including original director Michael Greif and original costume designer Angela Wendt. Original Broadway castmembers — including Idina Menzel, Anthony Rapp and Taye Diggs — also showed up for a rollicking reprise of "Seasons of Love," singing beside their successors, a very nice touch.

Tinashe nailed an awesome "Out Tonight" and was a great Mimi Marquez, but Jordan Fisher initially seemed overmatched by playing Mark Cohen, though he rose to the occasion by the end. Hunt successfully lit live candles during rehearsal and showed ability to hit his marks despite his bandaged foot while live but otherwise played his Roger with as much honesty as a hunky villain in a Disney Chanel teen show.

Brandon Victor Dixon sparkled as Tom Collins, proving again to be a supremely natural live performer. □

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SAT 1:30 | 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50
SUN 1:30 | 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30
MON-FRI 4:40 | 7:00
SAT-SUN 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 [PG-13]

THE KID KING
LOUIS ASHBORNE SERKIS | PATRICK STEWART
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10
SAT-SUN 1:25 | 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10
SPANISH
MON-FRI 4:30
SAT-SUN 1:55 | 4:30 [PG]

SERENITY
MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY | ANNE HATHAWAY
MON-THU & SUN 7:05 | 9:25
FRI-SAT 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:45 [R]

the upside
BRYAN CRANSTON | KEVIN HART
MON-THU 5:20 | 8:00
FRI 5:20 | 8:00 | 10:40
SAT 2:40 | 5:20 | 8:00 | 10:40
SUN 2:40 | 5:20 | 8:00
MON-SUN 9:20 [PG-13]

BON BINI HOLLAND 2
JANDINO ASPORAAT | JULIANA DE VRIES
DUTCH
MON-THU 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30
FRI 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
SAT 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
SUN 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 [PG-13]

A DOG'S WAY HOME
BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD | ASHLEY JUDD
MON-THU 4:30 | 6:45
FRI & SUN 2:15 | 4:30 | 6:45 [PG]

GLASS
BRUCE WILLIS | SAMUEL L. JACKSON
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MON-THU 3:45 | 6:25 | 9:05
FRI-SUN 1:05 | 3:45 | 6:25 | 9:05

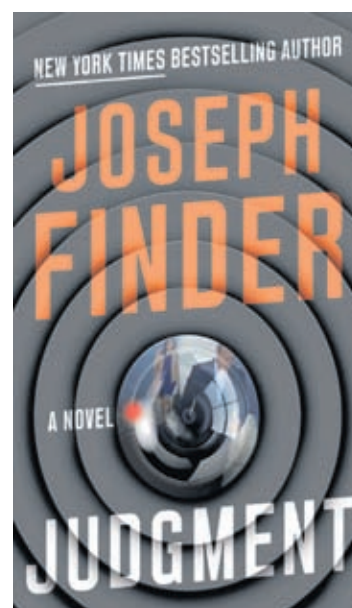
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JASON MOMOA | AMBER HEARD
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI & SUN 9:00 [PG-13]

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Author gives 'Judgment' a unique spin



This cover image released by Dutton shows "Judgement," by Joseph Finder.

Associated Press

By JEFF AYERS
Associated Press
"Judgment" (Dutton), by Joseph Finder
A one-night stand becomes a bigger mistake than she bargains for when

judge Juliana Brody hooks up with a man at a conference in Chicago.

The next morning they go their separate ways, never to speak of what happened: at least that's what he promises. She arrives back home in Boston and her loving family with tons of guilt.

She presides over a case that involves a worker accusing her boss of sex discrimination. Brody prides herself on being fair as a judge, but that is about to change when a new defense attorney arrives and it's the man from the conference.

In closed chambers, he informs her that their liaison was taped, and if she doesn't rule in favor of the company, their video will be released and her career will be ruined.

When she demands the tape, he tells her that his su-

periors have it and are pulling the strings, not him. He, too, is a pawn in this blackmail scheme.

Whoever is responsible for this entrapment doesn't know Brody well at all. She decides to take the fight to the source responsible for setting her up. She might have had a moment of stupidity and weakness, but is now literally trying to save her family and her reputation.

Affairs causing marital discord and havoc are a frequent theme in thrillers. Finder takes these common story elements and makes them appear to be fresh and new. Brody's plight may seem hopeless, but her strength and faith carry the day.

Author Joseph Finder proves that what appears to be a simple idea can be elevated with great writing and powerful characters. □

Linda Perry, pioneering producer, smashing through history

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Linda Perry didn't originally set out to be a music producer, but the singer who was focused on writing lyrics would hear noises in her head.

She couldn't describe it, but she knew what she wanted a song to sound like, and maybe more importantly, what she didn't want the song to sound like.

"When 4 Non Blondes was recording that first record, all I knew is that I didn't like the way it sounded. I couldn't vocalize what it was because I wasn't experienced enough," she said of her band, which released its debut album in 1992. "Then I kept trying to tell the producer, 'I don't like the way my voice sounds. I don't like the way the guitar sounds. It all sounds too clean.' He would constantly say, 'Can't you just go be a singer? Don't worry, let me do this.'"

That didn't sit well with her. So the ambitious musician took matters into her own hands — heading to the studio to re-work a little song called "What's Up?" to her liking.

"We had one reel of tape," she said. "We had no more money for budget. So I went in there with the engineer and I don't know anything about what I'm doing. I just started dialing in sounds, moving microphones, doing drum sounds. I just was a natural. I took total charge. The engineer was like, 'Well, I thought you've never done this before.' I go, 'I haven't.' But I said, 'I hear what I want to hear.'" That's when Linda Perry, the producer, was born.

"I was like, 'No one's ever going to tell me to go be a singer ever again.' I'm never going to allow that to ever happen," she said. Fast forward nearly 30 years later, and Perry is one of the most respected creators in the music industry. "What's Up?," the 4 Non Blondes international hit now considered a classic, is regularly covered at concerts today; Perry has produced music for acts such as Ali-



In this Jan. 23, 2019 photo, Linda Perry poses for a portrait at her studio in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

cia Keys, Adele, Gwen Stefani, James Blunt, Courtney Love and more; and she's launched multiple record labels and even had a TV show focused on discovering musicians.

And the magic she created with Christina Aguilera and Pink in the early 2000s came at pivotal moments in their young careers as the bubble gum pop stars tried to expand from the sound of their debut albums. They were extremely successful, thanks in part to Perry.

Perry, 53, hit a new height this year when she earned her first-ever nomination for non-classical producer of the year at the Grammy Awards — becoming just the ninth female to earn a nomination in the category in the organization's 61-year history, and the first woman nominated for the prize in 15 years. The last woman up for the award was Lauren Christy when the production trio The Matrix, behind hits for Avril Lavigne, was nominated at the 2004 Grammys. The

last time solo females were nominated was 20 years ago when both Lauryn Hill and Sheryl Crow were producer of the year contenders at the 1999 Grammys.

"I kind of knew I would get the nom because I just did a good body of work, and why wouldn't I? But then it crosses your mind like, 'Oh, wait a minute, women haven't... aren't ...it's not really a thing for women to get nominated for this,'" Perry said. "It's a flip-flop of emotions."

Perry's competition includes two-time producer of the year winner Pharrell Williams; Kanye West, who produced five albums last year including two of his own; Larry Klein, who also produced five albums last year from the jazz, pop and folk genres; and Boi-1da, who co-produced Drake's "God's Plan" and worked on songs for Eminem and Kendrick Lamar.

If Perry wins, she would be the first woman to do so. But the Songwriter Hall of Famer isn't concerned with making history or rectify-

ing what happened in the past — she wants to focus on what's happening right now, and the future.

"We're never going to go backward from here — believe me," she said. "It's going to happen again next year because I'm going to be nominated next year because my body of work is (expletive) awesome. ...There is going to be a crime happening if I'm not nominated next year."

"It's not in the 'why?' anymore," she added. "We've spent so many years in the 'why.' I just want to be in the now. Right now there are some (expletive) amazing things going on and women are leading the way."

Songwriter extraordinaire Diane Warren called Perry's nomination "great; good for her," but added: "It's sad that there aren't a lot more women nominated."

Perry's work that helped her land the nomination includes the soundtrack for "Serve Like Girl," a documentary about female veterans transitioning to regular life. Perry produced

each of the 13 songs, featuring Pink, Pat Benatar, Aguilera and others, and also served as a producer on the film. Perry also produced the sophomore album from rock band Dorothy, as well as singer Willa Amai's cover of Daft Punk's "Harder Better Faster Stronger." Both Dorothy and Amai are signed to Perry's company, We Are Hear, also home to Natasha Bedingfield, Angel Haze and more.

And Perry's already worked on material to help her earn a nomination at the 2020 Grammys: She produced about half of the "Dumplin'" soundtrack, released after this year's Grammy eligibility. She, alongside Dolly Parton, earned Golden Globe and Critics Choice nominations for the film's song, "Girl in the Movies."

When asked why there aren't as many popular female producers in music, Perry had several theories. The base of her thoughts: "There's a whole other stress that goes on women than men have to deal with," she said. "Maybe women just don't want to deal with that."

Another theory was that some women who write songs just don't want to produce, like Warren, a Grammy- and Golden Globe-winner. "It is not my thing. I don't want to sit there in the studio and go over drum sounds and collect vocals," Warren said. "I like to come in when it's done and when it's happening, and watch someone else do it."

Perry also said a woman's look can play into whether or how she navigates in the world of music producing. "Listen, you don't meet me and think you're going to be able to pull one over my eyes, or boss me around or manipulate me, or try to intimidate me. It's actually very opposite. And when you meet me, you already know that. I have a very masculine approach already. I'm pretty aggressive," she said. "Some hot chick that wants to be a producer, she's going to have more problems than me." □

Some journalists wonder if their profession is tweet-crazy

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — If Twitter is the town square for journalists, some are ready to step away. That's happening this week at the online news site Insider — by order of the boss. Reporters have been told to take a week off from tweeting at work and to keep TweetDeck off their computer screens. The idea of disengaging is to kick away a crutch for the journalists and escape from the echo chamber, said Julie Zeveloff West, Insider's editor-in-chief for the U.S.

Addiction to always-rolling Twitter feeds and the temptation to join in has led to soul-searching in newsrooms. Some of it is inspired by the reaction to the Jan. 19 demonstration in Washington involving students from a Covington, Kentucky, high school, which gained traction as a story primarily because of social media outrage only to become more complicated as different details and perspectives emerged.

Planning for Insider's ban predated the Covington story, West said.

She often walks through her newsrooms to find reporters staring at TweetDeck. Her goal is to encourage reporters to find news in other ways, by picking up the telephone or meeting sources. An editor will make sure no news is being missed.

Twitter "isn't the place where most people find us," she said. "Reporters place this outsized importance on it."

The Washington Post's David Von Drehle called Twitter the "crystal meth of newsrooms." He dates his moment of disillusionment to the Republican national convention in 2012. In the section reserved for reporters, he noticed many watching TweetDeck feeds instead of listening to speeches from the podium or stepping away to talk to delegates.

"Twitter offers an endless stream of faux events," Von Drehle wrote in a column this past weekend. "Fleeting sensations, momentary outrages, ersatz insights



In this Jan. 13, 2016, file photo, icons for Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and Pinterest are displayed on a window in New York.

Associated Press

and provocative distortions. 'News' nuggets roll by like the chocolates on Lucy's conveyor belt."

Since Twitter is irresistible to journalists who have the smart-aleck gene — probably the majority — a newsroom quip or instant observation is now writ large.

The Covington story uniquely played to Twitter's faults. Early video that depicted Covington student Nick Sandmann staring down Native American activist Nathan Phillips spread rapidly across social media and many people rushed to offer their takes. An event that may have otherwise

gone unnoticed instantly became a story by virtue of its existence online.

Yet when a wider picture emerged of what happened, in some respects quite literally from the view of a wider camera lens, a story that seemed black and white became gray. Some of the early opinions became embarrassing and were quietly deleted. But since there's no such thing as a quiet deletion when people are watching online, the incident became fodder for another outbreak of partisan warfare. The episode led Farhad Manjoo, a columnist for The

New York Times, to declare Twitter "the world's most damaging social network." In a column, he said he plans to stifle the urge to quickly type his opinion on every news event and suggested others follow his lead. Between mistakes and overly provocative opinions, too much can go wrong for journalists on Twitter, he said in an interview. "In order to be good on Twitter, you have to be authentic," he said. "But authenticity is also dangerous. It leads people to make assumptions about you. It can go bad in different ways." Perhaps it's inevitable at a

time that Twitter needs to be constantly monitored because it is one of the president of the United States' favorite forms of communications, but Manjoo said too often reporters spend more time in the virtual world than the real one.

"The way the media works now, we've just gone overboard on Twitter," he said. Days after Covington, some news outlets proved his point by writing stories about NBC "Today" show host Savannah Guthrie's interview with Sandmann that were nothing but collections of Twitter comments about how she did. Some tweeters thought Guthrie was too hard on him. Some thought she was too soft. Simply by nature of the forum, few who thought it was just right bothered posting.

Media experts wary of Twitter quitters said a distinction between the platform and how people use it should not be lost.

"I really don't think it's so hard to avoid commenting on a moving story when the facts are not clear," said Jay Rosen, a New York University journalism professor. Leaving Twitter means cutting off a valuable news source since many newsmakers use the venue to make announcements, he said. It's also an equalizer in giving access to a virtual town square to people who might otherwise be overlooked, said news consultant Jeff Jarvis.

"Journalists should be looking for every possible means to listen better to the public," Jarvis said. "If you cut yourself off, it's ridiculous."

Some have done that, or tried. Manjoo's colleague at The Times, White House correspondent Maggie Haberman, wrote last July about how she was stepping back from Twitter after nearly nine years and 187,000 tweets.

"The viciousness, toxic partisan anger, intellectual dishonesty, motive-questioning and sexism are at all-time highs, with no end in sight," she wrote. □



This April 26, 2017, file photo shows the Twitter app icon on a mobile phone in Philadelphia.

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